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TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY,

PEORIA, ILLINOIS.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 1893.

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EDWARD HINE & CO., PRINTERS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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M. GRISWOLD, . . . . .	Term expires 1894
M. HENEERY, . . . . .	" " 1894
T. M. McILVAINE, . . . . .	" " 1894
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## OFFICERS.

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M. GRISWOLD, . . . . .	PRESIDENT.
M. HENEERY, . . . . .	VICE-PRESIDENT.
B. CREMER, . . . . .	SECRETARY.

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## STANDING COMMITTEES.

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Finance and Auditing—Heneery, Grier, Dolan.  
 Library and Reading Room—Wells, Cremer, McIlvaine.  
 Building and Grounds—Grier, Ullman, Hine.  
 Administration—Ullman, Dolan, Griswold.  
 Binding—Hine, Cremer, Wells.

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## LIBRARY SERVICE.

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*Librarian*—E. S. WILLCOX.

*Assistants.*

Emilie E. Brendel,	Rose E. Reynolds,	Mary B. Lindsay,
Loura B. Grant,	Anna L. Archer,	*Elizabeth T. Ellis,
Harry Werschut,	Maclay Booth.	

*In the Bindery.*

Geo. F. Walker,	Ruth McKenzie,	Rachel Garrabrant.
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*Evening Attendant*—Samuel W. Dodge.

*Janitress*—Mrs. Mary Theena.

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\*Absent since October 1, at the Albany Library School.

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS.

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*To the Mayor and City Council of the City of Peoria.*

GENTLEMEN:—In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 81, of the revised statutes of the State of Illinois, the directors of the Peoria Public Library herewith respectfully submit to your honorable body the annexed report of our librarian, showing the condition of the library May 31, 1893; the receipts and disbursements of moneys, the number and character of the books purchased and loaned out during the year, and the whole number and character of the books now composing the Peoria Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTHEW GRISWOLD,

President.

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## REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

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*To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library.*

GENTLEMEN:—I hand you herewith the twelfth annual report of the Peoria Public Library for the year ending May 31, 1893.

It shows a steady growth in number of volumes and in appreciation by the public. Two years more of such growth and we shall have to have more room or smother in our own fat.

Referring to the appended tables of statistics for details, the library was open during the year 305 week days and 52 Sundays. It was closed on 8 legal holidays. The number of books in circulation one year ago was 42,306; deduct lost and paid for 12, worn out 157, and add the year's increase 3,129, and we have in circulation May 31, 1893, a total of 45,266; to these add duplicates and pamphlets and we have a grand total of 49,383.

The circulation of the year was 96,382, a gain of 6,738 volumes over the year 1891-2.

By reference to the tables it will be seen that in Theology, Fine Arts, Fiction and Juveniles there has been a falling off in the relative per cent. of issues, and an increase in all other classes.

The issue of fiction and juveniles for 1891-2 was 72 48-100 per cent. of our total issue, while for 1892-3 it was 68 64-100 per cent. a fall-

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ing off of 384-100 per cent. During the same time the absolute issue was 1,187 volumes greater.

The explanation of this diminished per cent. of fiction is found, perhaps, in our practice of giving every member a second or extra membership card on which no fiction can be drawn.

People come for a novel, they see our attractive array of new books exposed to view, and carry home for a second book a history, a volume of essays or some book of travels.

It is our experience at the delivery desk that the issue of books other than fiction to people who come for a novel, and but for the novel would not come, has been much increased by this plan of a second, non-fiction card. This is especially noticeable with our young folks who generally want all they can have, and after selecting their story for themselves, are ready to take some other good book on the recommendation of the assistant.

It is therefore quite possible that a more liberal supply of choice fiction—duplicates of the better kind—might have the surprising result of reducing still lower the relative per cent. of fiction issues.

It was an old fisherman who said, that in selecting bait he did not consult his own taste but that of the fishes. We offer pleasant little baits to Sunday school children and hire opera singers to help fill our pews. The novel draws people to the library.

Of the intellectual equipment of the young woman who reads nothing but novels with such a world of other delightful books before her, I have a very poor opinion. She probably eats candy and chews gum. Nevertheless a good novel now and then is as entertaining as instructive and as true as another book. It will continue to be so and to be with us, so long as the proper study of mankind is man.

If I were compelled to choose between a nineteenth century without telephones and a nineteenth century without Dickens, Thackeray, Victor Hugo, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Walter Besant, remembering how their enthusiasm of humanity has quickened our love for man and sympathy with men, to how many millions they have given wholesome amusement, solace in hours of weariness and cheer and strength along the highway of life, I think I should hold on to David Copperfield and Col. Newcome and Jean Valjean and Uncle Tom and All Sorts and Conditions of Men and let the next century make all it could out of the Bell telephone patent.

Our issues of fiction, not including juveniles, were  $45\frac{1}{3}$  per cent. of our total issues for the year, while our purchases of fiction were, in dollars and cents, only  $17\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of our total book purchases and  $23\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. of the total volume purchases.

As bearing on this subject I may say further, that our per cent. of fiction issues is lower than that of any of a dozen or more libraries whose reports have lately come to hand, the most of them running above 70 per cent. The average at Lawrence, Mass., for the last seven years was over 75 per cent. At Newark, N. J., last year it was 80 per cent., and at the new Carnegie library at Allegheny it was over 90 per cent.

**DAILY ISSUE.**

Our highest daily issue of books on any one day was 873, as against 643 for the year before; our lowest was 146, as against 129 for the year before. Since November, 1892, the issue department has been closed on Sunday, the reading room only being open from 2 to 6 p. m. This has been a great relief to our working force and no material loss to the public.

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

The experiment which we tried year before last in a small way and late in the season at the Franklin school on the bluff, was continued this last year on the same lines at the Sumner school, Mr. Barnhart principal, and at the Garfield school, Mr. O'Brien principal. These schools are respectively two and one-half and three miles distant from the center of the city in districts far away from the library.

The plan was briefly as follows: We made up for each school a carefully selected library of 100 volumes, partly from new purchases and partly from duplicates on our shelves, and placed them in charge of the principals, they giving us receipts for the books. At the same time we supplied them with blank forms of application to be given to such children as wished to use the books. These applications, duly guaranteed by some householder, were presented by the children at the desk of the public library and membership cards were issued to the applicants in precisely the same manner as to other applicants. Provided with these membership cards, the pupils obtained books from their respective principals on certain appointed days of the week under the same rules and limitations as to time, fines, etc., as are in force at the library. We established thus at each of these schools, a small but useful branch library at no cost to us for administration.

As a matter of interest I give herewith a list of the books sent to the Sumner school with the number of times each book was issued. It is worth studying. At the end of five months Mr. Barnhart returned the 100 volumes to us without loss and with only a very moderate amount of wear and tear.

List of books loaned to the Sumner school with the number of times each book was issued during the period of five months, November 1st to April 1st:

TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE.		No. of issues	
21 vols.			
	No. of issues		
Zigzag Journeys in Europe.....	17	Boy Travelers in Ceylon, etc ..	12
" " " Brit. Islands	10	" " " Cent. Europe	13
" " " Sunny South	18	An English Bodley Family ...	15
Three Vassar Girls in Italy....	11	The Bodley Grandchildren....	12
" " " Eng....	7	The Viking Bodleys .....	12
" " " Russia..	9	A Silver City .....	28
Family Flight Through France	15	Travels in Mexico .....	7
" " " Spain..	6	On the Banks of the Amazon..	20
Boy Travelers in Japan, etc....	16	Span.-Amer. Republics. ....	11
" " " Siam, etc ....	13	Strange Corners of our Country	16
		A White Umbrella in Mexico..	10
			<hr/>
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SCIENCE. 12 vols.		No. of issues			No. of issues
Lookabout Club .....	15		Stories of the Civil War .....	12	
Boys' Workshop .....	10		Life of Lincoln .....	18	
Fairy Land of Science .....	13		Life of La Fayette .....	16	
Birds and Bees .....	7		Life of Montezuma .....	11	
Birds Nesting .....	8		Life of Pocahontas .....	10	
Madam How, etc .....	4		Life of Tecumseh .....	10	
Six Little Cooks .....	25			242	
Folks in Feathers, etc .....	8		STORIES AND FICTION. 36 vols.		
A Song of Life .....	13		Five Little Peppers I .....	21	
Boys' Book of Sports .....	23		Five Little Peppers II .....	23	
Biography of a Locomotive .....	22		Five Little Peppers III .....	24	
Advent. of a Young Naturalist .....	19		Letters From a Cat .....	34	
	167		Wm. Henry Letters .....	19	
FAIRY TALES AND LEGENDS.			Gunnar .....	15	
12 vols.			Little Men .....	22	
Through the Looking-glass ...	26		Little Women .....	21	
German Popular Stories .....	19		Rose in Bloom .....	22	
Greek Fairy Tales .....	26		Old Fashioned Girl .....	21	
Water Babies .....	18		Eight Cousins .....	19	
Blue Fairy Book .....	20		Boy Emigrants .....	17	
Enchanted Moccasin .....	23		To the Lions .....	14	
Scudder's Fables .....	33		The Jimmy Johns .....	27	
Back of the North Wind .....	20		Polly Cologne .....	28	
Story of Siegfried .....	13		Christmas Stories .....	23	
Red Fairy Book .....	21		Man Without a Country .....	10	
Mopsa the Fairy .....	27		Nellie's Silver Mine .....	24	
Alice in Wonderland .....	27		Being a Boy .....	24	
	273		Robinson Crusoe .....	14	
HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY.			Lucy Stories .....	11	
19 vols.			Lucy at Study .....	11	
Old times in the Colonies .....	19		Lucy on the Mountains .....	11	
Stories From Herodotus .....	5		Rollo at School .....	11	
The Story of Liberty .....	18		Rollo's Experiments .....	7	
Child's History of England .....	6		Rollo—Fire and Water .....	13	
Young Folks' Hist. of Russia ..	11		Rollo—Work and Play .....	6	
First Book in American History ..	26		Rollo—Talk and Read .....	12	
War of Independence .....	9		Rollo—Sky and Air .....	9	
Plutarch's Lives .....	3		Rollo's Travels .....	6	
Young Folks' History of U. S. ..	19		Jonas on a Farm in Winter .....	18	
Young Folks' History of Mex. ..	18		Jonas on a Farm in Summer ..	18	
Short History of France .....	6		Jonas Stories .....	17	
Ten Events of History .....	8		Jonas In Country .....	16	
Valentine at Sedan .....	17		Jonas In Town .....	17	
			Jonas A Judge .....	18	
				623	

### THE CATALOGUE.

Upon the return of the Misses Reynolds and Lindsay from the Albany library school a year ago, they were assigned to the duty of first revising, enlarging and subdividing our system of classification and then of making a subject catalogue on cards as preliminary to a printed catalogue.

What the resources of a library may be, its ability to impart information on any one of 50,000 different subjects of possible inquiry, cannot be known until the books on its shelves have passed singly under examination, and every principal subject treated of been noted and entered in some kind of a list—with us a catalogue on cards—and these cards arranged alphabetically and made accessible to the public. No librarian or book-worm, familiar beyond the average with the contents of books, and sitting at an information desk to answer questions and direct inquiry, could begin to do what a good subject catalogue does, as it were, automatically. Let me give an illustration:

Once a year the school children descend upon us for something about Arbor Day, and our assistants have spent hours at a time in former years trying to help them out. Hereafter they will simply refer the children to the card catalogue, subject *Arbor Day*, when, in one moment's time, they will find a reference to whatever our library contains on that subject, among others to a book entitled "Third Annual Report of the Ohio State Forestry Bureau," in the back part of which will be found just what they want, viz., an admirable essay of 64 pages by John B. Peaslee, superintendent of the Cincinnati public schools, on "Trees and Tree Planting," with exercises and directions for the celebration of Arbor Day.

There is nothing in the title of the book, nor in the classification of the book, nor yet in the appearance of the book, which is that of an ordinary public document, to suggest that this much wanted essay lay hid there within our easy reach all this time.

It is such analytical work as this that our cataloguers are now engaged upon. It demands accuracy and thoroughness at every step and must therefore take time.

Owing to the loss of two of our assistants, the young ladies who were to devote their time exclusively to cataloguing have had to render frequent assistance at the delivery desk and in other departments of work. It has also been a patriotic duty to do our share of work in preparing the library exhibit for the Columbian Exposition at Chicago, that there might be some adequate showing there of what the American Free Public Library is doing. Consequently we have really had the continuous labor of not more than one person at cataloguing during the year. Nevertheless we have completed rather more than one-third of our task and hope to finish the remaining two-thirds this present library year.

### MUSIC.

During the year some sixty volumes of song albums, octavo form, by Beethoven, Brahms, Franz, Grieg, Jensen, Lassen, Rubinstein, Schubert, Schumann and others, and over thirty volumes of selected piano-forte works in the most approved editions, of Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Schubert and Schumann have been added to our circulating department for issue like other books. They form a small but choice collection of the best examples of the great masters and will

have an educational influence in the matter of music. We have here in Peoria an increasingly large number of music teachers and musicians who are laboring hard to cultivate the taste for good music in the rising generation. It is no more than proper, and you have lent it the support of your hearty sanction, that a public library should provide help in this line also.

### GIFTS.

A library is always grateful to its friends for remembering it with gifts. Among those of especial value received during the year are the following:

The Peoria Journal Co. for publishing our lists of new books.

R. C. Grier—Last Speech of Wm. Windom.

J. M. Rice—Small Arms Practice, etc., 4 vols.

Justin Winsor—Catalogue of Harvard University, 22 vols.

Bishop J. L. Spalding—History of the Catholic Church, 4 vols.

Mrs. A. L. Schimpff—German Fiction, 14 vols.

M. Griswold—Family Histories and Genealogies, 5 vols. folio.

H. W. Wells—History of the Town of Shrewsbury.

Christian Literature Co.—Ante-Nicene Fathers, 9 vols.

Geo. F. Wightman—Map of Supposed Site of Fort Crève-Cœur.

Dr. I. W. Johnson—Four large photographs of the mummied remains of Seti I and Rameses II, the two most celebrated Pharaohs of ancient Egypt. Also a plaster cast, head and shoulders, of the *Hermes of Praxiteles*, one of the best preserved of ancient statues, and without doubt the most perfect expression of manly beauty left to us by antiquity.

### THE BINDERY.

We have employed in our bindery through the year, one foreman and two young women assistants, as formerly, and have kept them very busy. The report shows:

Books bound, all sizes.....	1,229
Newspapers .....	50
Rebound .....	799
Repaired .....	752
Portfolios and cases for periodicals .....	37

Total volumes..... 2,968

### THE ASSISTANTS.

The library force during the past year has consisted of the librarian and seven assistants as follows:

Miss Brendel and Miss Grant at the delivery desk and in charge of the statistics, desk receipts, and entry and preparation of the periodicals.

Mrs. Archer in charge of the accessioning and cataloguing of the new books; also of the business accounts, cash book and ledger.



Miss Reynolds and Miss Lindsay in charge of the recataloguing.

Mr. Harry Werschut in charge of the alcoves and the whole list of periodicals after they have left the reading room. Maclay Booth, youngest assistant; and all helping more or less at the delivery desk during the busy hours.

It gives me pleasure to say that they are all faithful workers at their respective posts, enjoying the work and animated with a desire to do their full duty to the library and to the public.

There is a fascination about work in a library not unlike that which draws us toward refined and cultivated people. Here we are continually making new friendships or renewing old ones with the master spirits of our own time and of past ages. If we cannot tarry long with them we can at least catch a glimpse of their serene and benignant features, a word from their eloquent lips, and we pass on, or stop to enjoy a double pleasure in introducing them to our friends and neighbors.

To aid others in the search after elevating and refining pleasure or knowledge is our daily duty. It is, therefore, gratifying to note an increasing use of our library by the public and particularly by the teachers and pupils of our schools, but why the number is not twice as large, is our constant wonder.

Where are our lawyers, doctors, teachers; where are our clergymen, all supposed to be reading people, that we see them so seldom in the library?

You, of the Board of Directors, look with some mistrust on our large issues of fiction. Send us then, educated people, lovers of books, who can enjoy history, art, poetry, political economy, theology. We have the books for them, the latest and best, and if we haven't them we will get them. Clergymen and book lovers from our neighboring towns in increasing numbers are glad to take advantage of these privileges at the cost to them of four dollars a year and some considerable trouble and travel. We feel neglected and hurt when our own near neighbors pass by on the other side.

The public library is the people's college, the radiating source and center of light for our city and the surrounding country:

"Hither as to their fountain, other stars repairing,

"In their golden urns draw light."

Very respectfully,

E. S. WILLCOX,

Librarian.

## STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1892-1893.

## RECEIPTS.

From city appropriation .....	\$12,162 55	
Desk receipts on hand.....	22 66	
Fines .....	405 90	
Books damaged and paid for .....	3 90	
Books lost and paid for.....	17 75	
Extra books loaned .....	5 60	
Duplicate cards.....	5 00	
Memberships .....	8 00	
Duplicate books sold.....	3 25	
Periodical account refunded.....	1 00	
		<hr/> \$12,635 61

## EXPENDITURES.

Books .....	\$ 2,702 58	
Periodicals.....	709 41	
Binding, labor .....	1,302 80	
"    material .....	259 06	
Rent .....	677 68	
Light .....	348 96	
Salaries.....	5,540 37	
Expense .....	514 35	
Stationery and printing.....	219 05	
Furniture and fixtures.....	129 10	
Insurance.....	232 25	
		<hr/> \$12,635 61

## CONTENTS OF LIBRARY.

## June 1st, 1892—

Books in circulation.....	42,306 vols.	
Duplicates not in use.....		2,016 vols.
Unbound pamphlets (estimated) .....		2,070 "

## Losses—

Lost and paid for .....	12 vols.	
Worn out and withdrawn ....	157 "	
Total losses.....	—	169 vols.
		<hr/> 42,137 vols.

## Additions—

By purchase.....	2,448 vols.	
By donation.....	310 "	
By periodicals bound.....	368 "	
Otherwise.....	3 "	
Total additions .....	—	3,129 vols.

Total books in circulation .....		45,266 vols.
Duplicates not in use.....	2,019 vols.	
Pamphlets .....	2,098 "	
		<hr/> 4,117 vols.

Total contents May 31, 1893 ..... 49,383 vols.

Number of periodicals taken and always accessible in the reading-room.

Dailies .....	10
Weeklies .....	59
Monthlies .....	125
Bi-Monthlies .....	4
Quarterlies .....	15
Total .....	213

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class June 1, 1892. Also the losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents of the library May 31, 1893.

	Total Vols. in Library May 31, 1892.	Lost and paid for.	Worn out and Withdrawn.	Balance.	No. vols. add. 1892-93.	Total Vols. in Lib. May 31, '93.	
						No.	Per Cent.
Philosophy .....	580	1		579	37	616	1.36
Theology .....	1,704			1,704	127	1,831	4.05
Social and Political Sciences .....	5,780			5,780	344	6,124	13.53
Natural Sciences and Useful Arts .....	5,130			5,130	283	5,413	11.96
Fine Arts and Poetry .....	2,765			2,765	251	3,016	6.66
Instrumental Music .....					46	46	.10
Fiction .....	6,317	3	82	6,232	728	6,960	15.38
Juvenile Literature .....	3,525	4	62	3,459	405	3,864	8.54
Literary Miscellany .....	3,546		11	3,535	223	3,758	8.30
History and Travel .....	8,684	1	2	8,681	482	9,163	20.24
Cyclopædias and Periodicals .....	4,275	3		4,272	203	4,475	9.88
Total .....	42,306	12	157	42,137	3,129	45,266	100.00

#### CHARACTER OF ADDITIONS.

English .....	2,930
German .....	116
French .....	37
Spanish .....	3
Latin .....	25
Greek .....	3
Other languages .....	15
Total .....	3,129
Purchased .....	2,448
Donations .....	310
Periodicals bound .....	368
Otherwise .....	3
Total .....	3,129

Volumes issued and per cent. of issue from each class, year ending May 31, 1893.

	NO. VOLS.	PER CENT.	PER CENT. FOR YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 1892.
Philosophy.....	823	0.86	0.76
Theology.....	955	0.99	1.10
Social and Political Sciences.....	1564	1.62	1.51
Natural Sciences and Useful Arts..	4420	4.59	4.14
Fine Arts and Poetry.....	3306	3.43	2.95
Fiction.....	43700	45.34	46.90
Juvenile Literature.....	22464	23.30	25.58
Literary Miscellany.....	4089	4.24	3.76
History and Travel.....	10649	11.05	9.72
Cyclopædias and Periodicals.....	4412	4.58	3.58
Total.....	96,382	100.00	100.00

Highest issue on any week day during 1892-3, February 18, 1893..... 873 vols.

Lowest issue on any week day during 1892-3, September 29, 1892..... 146 vols.

The library was open 305 week-days and 52 Sundays, closed on 8 holidays.

#### MEMBERSHIPS.

Memberships in force June 1st, 1892..... 4440  
Memberships issued during the year..... 2368

Total..... 6808  
Memberships expired during the year..... 2307

Memberships in force May 31st, 1893..... 4501

#### DELINQUENTS.

Books kept over time during the year..... 8582  
Number of fine notices sent..... 693  
Number of notices to guarantors..... 13  
Number of notices for books reserved..... 179

#### BINDERY.

Books bound..... 1229  
Newspapers bound..... 50  
Books rebound..... 799  
" repaired..... 752  
" resewed in old covers..... 101  
Portfolios and cases..... 37  
Total..... 2968

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }  
COUNTY OF PEORIA, } ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of June, 1893, by  
E. S. Willcox, Librarian.

RUDOLPHUS R. BOURLAND,  
Notary Public.

# Illinois State Library Law.

Approved and in force March 7, 1872.

As amended and in force March 26, 1891.

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*Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly:*

SEC. 1. *Establishment by City—Tax—Funds.* That the city council of each incorporated city, whether organized under general law or special charter, shall have power to establish and maintain a public library and reading room, for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of such city, and may levy a tax of not to exceed two mills on the dollar annually on all the taxable property in the city; *Provided*, that in cities of over one hundred thousand inhabitants after the year 1895, such tax shall not exceed one half of a mill on the dollar annually; such tax to be levied and collected in like manner with the general taxes of said city, and to be known as the library fund; *Provided*, that the said annual library tax in cities of over ten thousand inhabitants, shall not be included in the aggregate amount of taxes as limited by Section one (1) of article eight (8) of "An Act for the Incorporation of Cities and Villages," approved April 10, 1872, and the amendatory acts thereto, or by any provision of any special charter under which any city in this State is now organized.

SEC. 2. *Directors.*—When any city council shall have decided to establish and maintain a public library and reading room under this Act the mayor of such city shall, with the approval of the city council, proceed to appoint a board of nine directors for the same, chosen from the citizens at large with reference to their fitness for such office; and not more than one member of the city council shall be at any one time a member of said board.

SEC. 3 *Term of office—Removal.*—Said directors shall hold office one-third for one year, one-third for two years, and one-third for three years, from the first of July following their appointment, and at their first regular meeting shall cast lots for the respective terms; and annually thereafter the mayor shall, before the first of July of each year, appoint as before three directors, to take the place of the retiring directors, who shall hold office for three years, and until their successors are appointed. The mayor may, by and with the consent of the city council, remove any director for misconduct or neglect of duty.

SEC. 4. *Vacancies—Compensation.*—Vacancies in the board of directors, occasioned by removals, resignation, or otherwise, shall be reported to the city council, and be filled in like manner as original appointments, and no director shall receive compensation as such.

SEC. 5. *Organization—Powers of Directors—Funds.*—Said directors shall, immediately after appointment, meet and organize by the election of one of their number president, and by the election of such other officers as they may deem necessary. They shall make and adopt such by-laws, rules and regulations for their own guidance and for the government of the library and reading room as may be expedient, not inconsistent with this Act. They shall have the exclusive control of the expenditure of all moneys collected to the credit of the library fund, and of the construction of any library building, and of the supervision, care and custody of the grounds, rooms or buildings constructed, leased or set apart for that purpose; *Provided*, that all moneys received for such library shall be deposited in the treasury of said city to the credit of the library fund, and shall be kept separate and apart from other moneys of such city, and drawn upon by the proper officers of said city, upon the proper authenticated vouchers of the library board. Said board shall have power to purchase or lease grounds to occupy, lease or erect an appropriate building or buildings for the use of said library; shall have power to appoint a suitable librarian and necessary assistants, and fix their compensation, and shall also have power to remove such appointees; and shall in general, carry out the spirit and intent of this Act, in establishing and maintaining a public library and reading room.

SEC. 6. *Who may use library.*—Every library and reading room established under this Act shall be forever free to the use of the inhabitants of the city where located, always subject to such reasonable rules and regulations as the library board may adopt, in order to render the use of said library and reading room of the greatest benefit to the greatest number; and said board may exclude from the use of said library and reading room any and all persons who shall wilfully violate such rules. And said board may extend the privileges and use of such library and reading room to persons residing outside of such city in this State, upon such terms and conditions as said board may from time to time by its regulations prescribe.

SEC. 7. *Report of Directors.*—The said board of directors shall make, on or before the second Monday in June, an annual report to the city council, stating the condition of their trust on the first day of June of that year, the various sums of money received from the library fund and from other sources, and how such moneys have been expended, and for what purposes; the number of books and periodicals on hand, the number added by purchase, gift, or otherwise, during the year; the number lost or missing; the number of visitors attending; the number of books loaned out, and the general character and kind of such books; with such other statistics, information and suggestions as they may deem of general interest. All such portions of said report as relate to the re-

ceipt and expenditure of money, as well [as] the number of books on hand, books lost or missing, and books purchased shall be verified by affidavit.

SEC. 8. *Penalties.*—The city council of said city shall have power to pass ordinances imposing suitable penalties for the punishment of persons committing injury upon such library or the grounds or other property thereof, or for injury to or failure to return, any book belonging to such library.

SEC. 9. *Donations.*—Any person desiring to make donations of money, personal property or real estate for the benefit of such library, shall have the right to vest the title to the money or real estate so donated in the board of directors created under this Act, to be held and controlled by such board, when accepted, according to the terms of the deed, gift, devise or bequest of such property; and as to such property the said board shall be held and considered to be special trustees.

SEC. 10. *Powers of Villages, Towns and Townships.*—When fifty legal voters of any incorporated town, village or township shall present a petition to the clerk of the town, village or township (or trustee of schools in counties not under township organization), asking that an annual tax may be levied for the establishment and maintenance of a free public library in such town or township, and shall specify, in their petition, a rate of taxation not to exceed two mills on the dollar, such clerk (or trustee of schools in counties not under township organization) shall in the next legal notice of the regular annual election in such town or township give notice that at such election every elector may vote "For a — mill tax for a free public library," or "Against a — mill tax for a free public library," specifying in such notice the rate of taxation mentioned in said petition, and if the majority of all the votes cast in such town, village or township shall be "For the taxation for the free public library" the tax specified in such notice shall be levied and collected in like manner with other general taxes of said town or township, and shall be known as the "Library Fund;" *Provided*, that such tax shall cease in case the legal voters of any such town, village or township shall so determine by a majority vote, at any annual election held therein; and the corporate authorities of such towns or villages may exercise the same powers conferred upon the corporate authorities of cities under this Act.

SEC. 11. *Directors in Villages, Etc.*—At the next regular election after any town, village or township shall have voted to establish a free public library, there shall be elected a library board of six directors, one-third for one year, one-third for two years, one-third for three years, and annually thereafter there shall be elected two directors, who shall hold their office for three years, and until their successors are elected and qualified; which board shall have the same powers as are by this Act conferred upon the board of directors of free public libraries in cities.





THE

Fourteenth  
~~THIRTEENTH~~ ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND THE

37th Annual Report since its First Organization  
as the Peoria City Library

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

For the Year Ending May 31, 1894

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

M. GRISWOLD,	. . . . .	Term expires 1894
M. HENEBERY,	. . . . .	" " 1894
T. M. McILVAINE,	. . . . .	" " 1894
B. CREMER,	. . . . .	" " 1895
H. W. WELLS,	. . . . .	" " 1895
EDWARD HINE,	. . . . .	" " 1895
CHAS. R. VANDERVORT,	. . . . .	" " 1896
R. C. GRIER,	. . . . .	" " 1896
HENRY ULLMAN,	. . . . .	" " 1896

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## OFFICERS.

M. GRISWOLD,	. . . . .	PRESIDENT.
M. HENEBERY,	. . . . .	VICE-PRESIDENT.
B. CREMER,	. . . . .	SECRETARY.

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## STANDING COMMITTEES.

Finance and Auditing — Henebery, Grier, Vandervort.

Library and Reading Room — Wells, Cremer, McIlvaine.

Building and Grounds — Grier, Ullman, Hine.

Administration — Ullman, Vandervort, Griswold.

Binding — Hine, Cremer, Wells.

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## LIBRARY SERVICE.

*Librarian* — E. S. WILLCOX.

### *Assistants:*

Emilie E. Brendel,	Rose E. Reynolds,*	Mary B. Lindsay,†
Loura B. Grant,	Anna L. Archer,	Elizabeth T. Ellis,
Harry Werschütz,	John M. Youngman,	Maclay Booth.‡

### *In the Bindery:*

Geo. F. Walker,	Ruth McKenzie,	Rachel Garrabrant,
	Alpha Van Tassel.	

*Evening Attendant* — Samuel W. Dodge.

*Fanitress* — Mrs. Mary Theena.

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\*Died September 10, 1893.

†Resigned May 15, 1894.

‡During the summer vacations.

## Report of the Directors.

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*To the Mayor and City Council of the City of Peoria:*

GENTLEMEN:—In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 81 of the revised statutes of the State of Illinois, the directors of the Peoria Public Library herewith respectfully submit to your honorable body the annexed report of our librarian, showing the condition of the library May 31, 1894; the receipts and disbursements of moneys, the number and character of the books purchased and loaned out during the year, and the whole number and character of the books now composing the Peoria Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTHEW GRISWOLD,  
President.

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## Report of the Librarian.

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*To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library:*

GENTLEMEN:—I beg leave to present herewith our annual report for the year ending May 31, 1894, being the 14<sup>th</sup> annual report of the Peoria Public Library and the 37<sup>th</sup> annual report of the same library since its first organization as the Peoria City Library.

### GROWTH OF THE LIBRARY.

For detailed statistics I refer to the tabulated statements at the end of this report.

The number of volumes in the library and in circulation one year ago was 45,266. During the year there have been lost and paid for, or worn out and withdrawn, 329 volumes, and there have been added by purchase and gift 5,200 volumes, making the number in the library

p2986

and in circulation at the present time, 50,139, or, with duplicates and pamphlets, a grand total of 54,327.

There are 70 cities in the United States larger than Peoria, but only 19 libraries larger than ours, and, if I am not mistaken, only five cities with libraries larger than ours in proportion to their population, viz: Boston, Worcester, Springfield, New Bedford, and Taunton, all in Massachusetts.

In addition to the current literature of the day the purchases of the year have included an unusually large number of valuable works and completed sets to supply deficiencies, for a partial list of which I beg leave to refer below. It is a matter of no small pride that our library possesses so large a collection of complete, or nearly complete, sets of the standard periodicals, the great quarterlies and monthlies, in which is gathered the cream of the best thought for the last hundred years.

I have to report also a larger number than usual of valuable gifts to the library from our own citizens, and there are many more promised us as soon as we have a reasonably fire-proof building in which to store them.

It was a pious custom among the old Greeks and Romans, on coming home from a sea voyage, to bring some votive offering to the temple of Neptune in grateful recognition of their safe return. I beg leave to commend this custom to the consideration of our friends who travel in foreign lands.

### CIRCULATION.

The circulation of books for the past year has been by far the largest in any one year in the history of the library. For the year 1892-3 it was 96,382 volumes, the largest we had ever had; for the year just closed it reached 119,860. For the three years following the fire in the library in 1888, the average increase in circulation, year by year, was 3,351. Year before last the gain in circulation sprang up to more than double that average, to 6,738; this last year the gain has been three and one-third times that again, viz: 23,478 volumes, or a gain on the total circulation of the previous year of 23½ per cent.

This gain is remarkable, and still more so that it is very evenly distributed over all classes of books, and not, as might be suspected, in the class of fiction mostly. Indeed, fiction shows a slight falling off, being for this last year 44.48 per cent. of our total issues as compared with 45.34 per cent. for 1892-93 and 46.90 per cent. for 1891-92.

I think it impossible to overestimate the pleasure and profit to be derived by our public from the perusal in the course of a year of 119,-860 volumes of carefully selected, entertaining and instructive books. It tells in the general elevation of the character of our population, it gives an impulse to the intellectual and spiritual life of our city, such as could not be accomplished so easily in any other way.

The cultivation of the reading habit has become a necessity of the first importance in our day as a corrective to the temptations that assail the youth in our cities. There is no pleasure we can provide for our young people so cheap, so innocent and so profitable as the companionship of good books. I could tell of many an anxious mother who comes to our library in search of some attractive book for her boy, if peradventure, by that means she may keep him off the street and from bad companions at night.

### THE CATALOGUE.

Work on our new subject catalogue, which includes at the same time a complete revision of our entire card catalogue, has gone on slowly. In January the board decided to suspend the work temporarily and get out a Finding List of Fiction and Juveniles to meet a more pressing demand. This Finding List, now completed and in the hands of the printer, will be ready for issue shortly after July 1. It will be on sale at the desk at the very moderate price of 10 cents.

Work on the subject catalogue has been resumed.

### THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The plan adopted by the board three years ago of placing small libraries of selected books in the public schools farthest removed from the center of the city, was continued this year in the Sumner, Garfield and Lee schools, and with still more gratifying results.

The selected books were given in charge of the respective principals, Mr. Barnhart, Mr. O'Brien and Miss Beseman, and were issued to their pupils under the same rules and restrictions as from our main library. I am assured by the teachers that their pupils manifest a real eagerness for the books, and this is further shown by the number of issues, which was much larger than the year before; being for the Sumner school 2,264, for the Garfield school 1,951 and for the Lee school, the first year of the experiment in that school, 628—a total in the three schools of 4,832 vols., as against 2,160 in the previous year.

Following is the number of books of each class, issued at the Summer School:

Travel and adventure, . . . . .	421
Fairy tales and legends, . . . . .	224
Science, . . . . .	197
Miscellaneous, . . . . .	122
History and biography, . . . . .	323
Fiction, . . . . .	977
	<hr/>
	2264

#### THE BINDERY.

We have kept one foreman and two assistants busy in the bindery all the year and a third assistant a large part of the year, and could employ still another to advantage in catching up with the large amount of work constantly accumulating.

The number of new books received in paper covers, of weekly, monthly and quarterly periodicals to be bound as each volume is completed, of old books to be rebound or repaired, and of the daily newspapers, chiefly local, that must not be forgotten, runs up into the thousands every year.

Besides this, one of the assistants is occupied a large part of her time in preparing and entering our daily bundle of periodicals in their respective cases, in providing all new books with pockets and labels and in much patching up of old books, the cost of which in other libraries that have no bindery, goes into the general salary account.

Of all the work done in the bindery the most expensive in the way of time is the collating, preparing and binding of our local papers, yet the large and increasing number we now have forms one of our most valuable possessions, and one which, if lost or destroyed, it would be absolutely impossible to replace. They preserve for us and the future the daily history of our city.

#### THE ASSISTANTS.

On May 15 Miss Mary B. Lindsay of the cataloguing department left us to accept the very flattering position of chief librarian of the public library at Evanston, Ill. We have thus lost during the year, by the death of Miss Reynolds and the resignation of Miss Lindsay, two of our most experienced assistants. Miss Ellis now takes charge of the subject catalogue, and the other assistants remain substantially as reported one year ago. I have no words but praise for their faithful work, which, owing to our increased circulation, has been more than usually arduous during the entire year.

### GIFTS.

Many of the most valuable acquisitions of a library come to it in the shape of gifts, which are always welcome.

From other libraries, from public institutions and from individuals we are in constant receipt of reports which are duly acknowledged at the time.

Among gifts of a special value received during the year are the following:

The Peoria Journal Co., for publishing our bi-monthly list of new books.

Dr. W. G. Eggleston, *Souvenir of Illinois Legislature; Draining Channel and Waterway at Chicago.*

W. M. Sterrett, thirteen vols. on *Photography and Astronomy.*

Aloys Zotz, by will, 185 vols. miscellaneous.

F. Cantelo, *Spanish-English Dictionary*, 2 vols.

*Sunset Club, Chicago*, 2 volumes of proceedings.

I. E. Wells, Supt. of schools, Wisconsin, *Arbor Day and Wisconsin Trees; Springtime and Arbor Day; List for township libraries.*

Art Interchange Co., *Picturesque Vienna.*

Bishop J. L. Spaulding, *Views of Education.*

City of Minneapolis, *Annual report for 1893.*

I. C. Edwards, *Book of Mormon*, 3d edition.

Miss Jennie Bryan, *Science and Health* by Mrs. Eddy.

Mr. Yorekitchi Matsumato, *Japanese New Testament.*

### RARE AND VALUABLE PURCHASES.

Among the more noticeable purchases during the year are the following:

New Eng. Historical and Genealogical Register, 45 vols.

Massachusetts Historical Society's Proceedings, 28 vols.

American Almanac, 1830-1861, 32 vols.

Spofford's Almanac, 1878-1889, 12 vols.

Spofford's Library of Choice Literature, 10 vols.

Lieber's Encyclopædia Americana, 13 vols.

Reclus' Earth and its Inhabitants, 19 vols.

Magasin d' Education, 1864-1882, 35 vols.

Cabinet des Fées, 41 vols.

Thrum's Hawaiian Almanac, 1876-1893, 18 vols.

Hobbes' Works, 16 vols.

Priestley's Works, 8 vols.

- Tooke's History of Prices, 6 vols.  
Halkett and Laing's Dictionary of Anonymous and Pseudonymous Literature, 4 vols.  
Wilkes' U. S. Exploring Expedition, 5 vols.  
Asiatic Researches, 12 vols.  
Percy Anecdotes, 20 vols.  
Calderon, Comedies, 4 vols.  
Lope de Vega, Comedies, 4 vols.  
Annual Register, 1821-1831.  
Christian Examiner, 19 vols., completing set.  
Galaxy, vol. 3, completing set.  
Knickerbocker Magazine, vols. 19-20.  
New Review, vol. 1, completing to date.  
Niles' Register, vols. 27-28, completing 1-49.  
Knowledge, vols. 1-7, completing to date.  
Fortnightly Review, 28 vols., completing to date.  
Blackwood, 37 vols., completing to date lacking 1 vol.  
North American Review, 82 volumes, nearly completing to date.  
Contemporary Review, 18 vols., completing to date.  
British Almanac, 1829-1865, 37 vols.  
Year-book of Facts in Science and Art, 1839-1872, 34 vols.  
Monthly Review, 81 vols.  
English Illustrated Magazine, 10 vols.  
Classical Review, 7 vols.  
Eclectic Magazine, 9 vols.  
Littell's Living Age, vols. 51-56, 6 vols.

#### IN MEMORIAM.

The death of Miss Rose E. Reynolds, of the cataloguing department of the library, on the 10th of September, after a very short illness, was an irreparable loss to our working force, a loss, indeed to the city. Miss Reynolds had been connected with the library for more than five years, and of all our assistants was the best informed as to the contents of the library. To a natural strength of character and an amiability of disposition very rarely found united to such a degree in one person, she had by the most assiduous labor added a familiarity with books and the wants of the public which were of inestimable service to our large body of readers.

On the 12th of December occurred the death, after a lingering illness, of Mr. James C. Dolan, one of the original members of the



Public Library Board. From its first organization in April, 1880, he served continuously until his death, a period of nearly fourteen years. His long experience in municipal affairs as city collector, alderman and mayor, combined with sound judgment and integrity of character, made him a very useful and influential member of the Board, and especially so in the earlier years of the library.

Mr. Chas. R. Vandervort was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Dolan's death.

### CONCLUSION.

In looking back over the work of the year, while I am only too well aware that our library might have done more for the people of Peoria than it has done — and it must do more next year — still it is a satisfaction to know from our records and from our daily observation, that in no former year has it ever done so much. The increase in circulation of 23,478 volumes upon last year's total circulation of 96,382, without in the least lowering the high quality of that circulation, is a matter for congratulation. The large number of clubs for reading and study, teachers, pupils in our schools, students of literature, art, science and music, our cultivated people, and people seeking cultivation, resort to the library for help in increasing numbers each year.

The Public Library is becoming more and more a vital and stimulating force in the intellectual life of our city.

“Let knowledge grow from more to more.”

When we recall what our eyes have seen this past six months, the wild tumult in the air, the swarms of crazy projects threatening the existence of social order, we realize how dangerous, how cruel a tyrant, ignorance may become.

For ignorance is power — a tyrant and his club; but knowledge too is power — Jack the Giant-Killer.

It was Socrates, the wisest of the Greeks, who said, “There is only one good, namely, knowledge, and only one evil, namely, ignorance.”

Respectfully submitted,

E. S. WILLCOX,  
Librarian.



# Statistics for the Year 1893-1894.

## RECEIPTS.

From city appropriation, . . . . .	\$14,743 83	
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1893, . . . . .	36 58	
Fines, . . . . .	430 44	
Books damaged and paid for, . . . . .	4 20	
Books lost and paid for, . . . . .	15 45	
Extra books loaned, . . . . .	8 40	
Duplicate cards, . . . . .	5 75	
Memberships, . . . . .	14 00	
Duplicate books sold, . . . . .	6 50	
Rebate on freight, . . . . .	63	
		<hr/> \$15,265 78

## EXPENDITURES.

Books, . . . . .	\$4,927 47	
Periodicals, . . . . .	780 55	
Binding (labor), . . . . .	1,463 67	
Binding (materials), . . . . .	240 50	
Rent, . . . . .	688 00	
Light, . . . . .	343 69	
Salaries, . . . . .	5,459 54	
Expense, . . . . .	669 93	
Stationery, . . . . .	184 41	
Furniture and fixtures, . . . . .	160 76	
Insurance, . . . . .	298 10	
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1894, . . . . .	49 16	
		<hr/> \$15,265 78

## MEMBERSHIPS.

Memberships in force June 1, 1893, . . . . .	4,501	
Memberships issued during the year, . . . . .	2,782	
Total, . . . . .	7,283	
Memberships expired during the year, . . . . .	2,133	
Memberships in force May 31, 1894, . . . . .	5,150	

### CONTENTS OF LIBRARY.

June 1st, 1893—

Books in circulation, . . . . .	45,266 vols.	
Duplicates not in use, . . . . .		2,019 vols.
Unbound pamphlets (estimated), . . . . .		2,098 "

Losses—

Lost and paid for, . . . . .	16 vols.	
Worn out and withdrawn, . . . . .	311 "	
Total losses, . . . . .	327 vols.	

44,939 vols.

Additions—

By purchase, . . . . .	4,232 vols.	
By donation, . . . . .	517 "	
By periodicals bound, . . . . .	451 "	
Total additions, . . . . .	5,200 vols.	

Total books in circulation, . . . . .		50,139 vols.
Duplicates not in use, . . . . .	2,054 vols.	
Pamphlets, . . . . .	2,134 "	
		4,188 vols.

Total contents May 31, 1894, . . . . . 54,327 vols.

Number of periodicals taken and always accessible in the reading-room—

Dailies, . . . . .	10
Weeklies, . . . . .	61
Bi-weeklies, . . . . .	7
Monthlies, . . . . .	141
Bi-monthlies, . . . . .	10
Quarterlies, . . . . .	27
Total, . . . . .	256

### NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED.

		PER CENT.
Philosophy, . . . . .	749	0.63
Theology, . . . . .	1,302	1.09
Social and Political Science, . . . . .	1,853	1.55
Natural Science and Useful Arts, . . . . .	5,581	4.66
Fine Arts and Poetry, . . . . .	3,599	3.00
Fiction, . . . . .	53,312	44.48
Juvenile Fiction, . . . . .	30,150	25.15
Literary Miscellany, . . . . .	4,644	3.87
History and Travel, . . . . .	13,441	11.21
Cyclopædias and Periodicals, . . . . .	5,229	4.36
Total, . . . . .	119,860	100.00

Highest issue on any week day during 1893-4, Feb. 10, 1894, . . 1,102 vols.

Lowest issue on any week day during 1893-4, Sept. 12, 1893, . . 165 "



## DELINQUENTS.

Books kept over time during the year, . . . . .	9,297
Number of fine notices sent, . . . . .	877
Number of notices to guarantors, . . . . .	15
Number of notices for books reserved, . . . . .	455

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class June 1, 1893, the losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents of the Library May 31, 1894.

	Total vols. in Library May 31, 1893.	Lost and paid for.	Worn out and withdrawn.	Balance.	Number vols. added 1893-4.	Total vols. in Library May 31, 1894.	
						No.	Per Cent.
Philosophy, . . . . .	616	—	—	616	156	772	1.54
Theology, . . . . .	1,831	1	—	1,830	170	2,000	3.99
Social and Political Sciences, . . . . .	6,124	—	1	6,123	445	6,568	13.10
Natural Sciences and Useful Arts, . . . . .	5,413	—	1	5,412	394	5,806	11.58
Fine Arts, Poetry and Music, . . . . .	3,062	3	9	3,050	274	3,324	6.63
Fiction, . . . . .	6,960	6	170	6,784	1,073	7,857	15.67
Juvenile Literature, . . . . .	3,864	4	119	3,741	676	4,417	8.81
Literary Miscellany, . . . . .	3,758	1	3	3,754	330	4,084	8.14
History and Travel, . . . . .	9,163	1	8	9,154	848	10,002	19.95
Cyclopædias and Periodicals, . . . . .	4,475	—	—	4,475	834	5,309	10.59
Total, . . . . .	45,266	16	311	44,939	5,200	50,139	100.00

## CHARACTER OF ADDITIONS.

English, . . . . .	4,672
German, . . . . .	327
French, . . . . .	153
Italian, . . . . .	10
Spanish, . . . . .	13
Latin, . . . . .	8
Greek, . . . . .	15
Japanese, . . . . .	1
Danish, . . . . .	1
Total, . . . . .	5,200
Purchased, . . . . .	4,232
Donations, . . . . .	517
Periodicals, . . . . .	451
Total, . . . . .	5,200

**BINDERY.**

Books bound,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	687
Newspapers bound,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	50
Books rebound,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,557
Books repaired,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	565
Portfolios,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	90
Total,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,949

**SIZES.**

32°	24°	16°	12°	8°	4°	Folios		
3	74	586	843	489	145	154	Total,	2,294
Portfolios and books repaired, miscellaneous sizes,								655
							Total,	2,949

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }  
COUNTY OF PEORIA, } ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of June, 1894, by E. S. Willcox, Librarian.

LEWIS B. HOWE, *Notary Public.*





THE

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND THE

38th Annual Report since its First Organization  
as the Peoria City Library

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

For the Year Ending May 31, 1895

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1895-96.

R. C. GRIER,	.	.	.	.	.	Term expires	1896
HENRY ULLMAN,	.	.	.	.	.	"	1896
CHAS. R. VANDERVORT,	.	.	.	.	.	"	1896
M. GRISWOLD,	.	.	.	.	.	"	1897
T. M. McILVAINE,	.	.	.	.	.	"	1897
FRANK MEYER,	.	.	.	.	.	"	1897
B. CREMER,	.	.	.	.	.	"	1898
L. F. HOUGHTON,	.	.	.	.	.	"	1898
H. W. WELLS,	.	.	.	.	.	"	1898

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### OFFICERS.

R. C. GRIER,	.	.	.	PRESIDENT.
H. W. WELLS,	.	.	.	VICE-PRESIDENT.
B. CREMER,	.	.	.	SECRETARY.

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### STANDING COMMITTEES.

Finance and Auditing—Ullman, Houghton, Meyer.  
 Library and Reading Room—Wells, Cremer, McIlvaine, Vandervort.  
 Building and Grounds—McIlvaine, Vandervort, Grier.  
 Administration—Houghton, Griswold, Ullman.  
 Binding—Meyer, Cremer, Wells.

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### LIBRARY SERVICE.

*Librarian*—E. S. WILLCOX.

#### *Assistants :*

Emilie E. Brendel,	Anna L. Archer,	Irene Stewart,
Loura B. Grant,	Elizabeth T. Ellis,	Maclay Booth,*
Harry Werschut,	John M. Youngman,	Jesse D. Akard.†

#### *In the Bindery :*

Geo. F. Walker,	Ruth McKenzie,	Rachel Garrabrant,
Alpha Van Tassel,‡	Edith A. Quinn.§	

*Evening Attendant*—Samuel W. Dodge.

*Janitress*—Mrs. Mary Theena.

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\*Occasional.

†Two months.

‡Until March 1st.

§From March 1st.

## Report of the Directors.

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*To the Mayor and City Council of the City of Peoria.*

GENTLEMEN:—In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 81 of the revised statutes of the State of Illinois, the directors of the Peoria Public Library herewith respectfully submit to your honorable body the annexed report of our librarian, showing the condition of the library May 31, 1895; the receipts and disbursements of moneys, the number and the character of the books purchased and loaned out during the year, and the whole number and character of the books now composing the Peoria Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTHEW GRISWOLD,  
President.

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## Report of the Librarian.

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*To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library.*

GENTLEMEN:—I beg leave to present herewith our annual report for the year ending May 31, 1895, being the 15th annual report of the Peoria Public Library and the 38th annual report of the same library since its first organization as the Peoria City Library.

For detailed statistics I refer to the tabulated statements appended.

### CIRCULATION.

The usefulness of a well selected library is measured by its circulation, as the success of a mercantile enterprise is measured

by the amount of profitable sales. It is for this reason that we watch our circulation closely, noting its varying per cent of increase from year to year.

The circulation of books for the year just closed was 136,083—much the largest ever attained—a gain of 16,223 over that of the year ending May 31, 1894, and of 39,701 over that of the year ending May 31, 1893. Meanwhile our membership has risen during the year from 5,150 to 5,715.

In the early days of public libraries, while they were slowly feeling their way into the best methods of management, it was generally the rule to make up book orders very deliberately three or four times a year, in large lots. After the books were ordered a month might pass before they were received; another month or two would be required to enter and catalogue them, and by the time they were ready for issue to the public, the public had lost its first interest in them. A dry-goods merchant who should replenish his stock of goods after this manner would soon find his sales-rooms deserted. He could not expect to draw customers by a display, no matter how brilliant, of last year's novelties. The same holds good in a public library, which caters to the general public and not, like college and special libraries, to the learned few. The patrons of a public library want their books at the same time when the rest of the world is reading and discussing them.

Your book committee have for the last few years pursued this latter policy in the purchase of books, and the results are shown in largely increased issues.

The circulation for the year ending May 31, 1882, was ..... 48,703

The circulation for the year ending May 31, 1892, was ..... 89,644

Total gain in circulation in 10 years ..... 40,941

Or an average gain each year of ..... 4,094

The circulation for the year ending May 31, 1892, was ..... 89,644

The circulation for the year ending May 31, 1895, was ..... 136,083

Total gain in circulation in 3 years ..... 46,439

Or an average gain each year of ..... 15,480

This is a gain of 5,498 more in the last three years than in the ten preceding years.

In a public library that can afford it, it is a matter of business as well as a matter of satisfaction to see that books likely to be

called for either on account of the popularity of the writer or the importance of the subject, shall be on its shelves ready for its patrons as soon as they are on the shelves of the bookseller ready for his customers. Of course, there is more risk of buying now and then a worthless book than if we waited until the book was a hundred years old and had become a classic or was forgotten, yet, what is required of the book buyer is only the same art which buyers in all lines of business have to learn, and which comes from practice, experience, familiarity with books, literature, all knowledge.

The character of the circulation, as will be seen from the tables, shows but little variation from that of former years. Contrary, however, to the last two preceding reports fiction shows a slightly increased demand, which is to be credited, at least partly, to one or two popular novels which appeared during the year.

The percentage of fiction issued this last year, not including juveniles, was  $45\frac{85}{100}$  per cent, as against  $44\frac{48}{100}$  per cent the year before, an increase of  $1\frac{37}{100}$  per cent. At the same time the purchases of fiction for the year were only 545 volumes out of 2,141 purchased, or  $25\frac{45}{100}$  per cent, and the money spent for fiction was \$337, out of \$2,361 spent on the purchase of books, or  $14\frac{37}{100}$  per cent.

The total issue from the Garfield, Sumner and Lee schools, which, from October to June each year serve to some extent as branch libraries, was 4,495 volumes. The books so issued are read not only by the pupils but also, in a great number of cases, as reported by the children, they are read with avidity by the pupils' parents, who thus derive advantage from the library brought more nearly within reach.

Following is the number of books of each class issued at the three schools:

	Lee.	Garfield	Sumner.	Total.
Literature .....	12	61	62	135
Science, Art, Religion.....	67	276	349	692
History, Biography, Travels.....	220	823	772	1,815
Fiction, Fairy Tales, Legends.....	283	655	915	1,853
Total.....	582	1,815	2,098	4,495

### GROWTH OF THE LIBRARY.

The number of volumes in the library and in circulation one year ago was 50,139. During the year there have been added by purchase and gift 3,062. Deducting 380 volumes lost and paid for or worn out and withdrawn, the number in the library and in circulation at the present time is 52,821. This does not include duplicates and pamphlets.

In the year 1893-94 the number of volumes added to the library was 5,200, as compared with 3,062 this last year. The diminished number added this year is explained by the fact that for the past six months, with the erection of a new library building in prospect, it has been deemed a matter of prudence to husband the resources of the library somewhat and buy fewer books until it was known how much the building was going to cost.

### THE CATALOGUE.

The work of revising and enlarging our system of classification has gone on steadily during the year, and we hope to complete the work easily during the coming twelve months. The number of new cards already in place in the drawers of the subject catalogue now exceeds 18,000.

In the Bindery we have employed one foreman and three assistants constantly. The work done is shown in the appended table.

### GIFTS.

From other libraries, public institutions, societies and individuals we receive many reports, catalogues and pamphlets, which are duly acknowledged at the time.

Among gifts of a special value received during the year are the following:

The Peoria Journal Co., publishing our bi-monthly lists of new books.

Dr. F. Brendel, Humboldt's *Essai Politique*, 5 vols.

John E. McDermott, *Selections from the Private Correspondence of James Madison*, 1 vol.

Am. Swedenborgian Publ. Society, *Swedenborg's Works*, 12 vols.

James S. Barkman, *Godwin's Life of Bryant*, 2 vols.

Wm. Hawley Smith, *Walks Abroad*, 1 vol.

M. W. Goss, *Latin Bible*, 1 vol.

S. W. Dodge, *Boston Almanac*, 1 vol.

Mrs. Mary W. Rouse, Miss Cobbe's Modern Rack, 1 vol.  
Miss Mary Bestor, Large etching of St. Lorentz Platz, Nuremburg.  
John H. Roth, Large photograph of St. Peter's, Rome.

Among the more valuable purchases during the year are the following:

Macmillan's Magazine, 30 vols.

North American Review, 3 vols.

We lack now only seven volumes—Vols. 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 68, 97—of a complete set of the N. A. Review from 1815 to date.

Eclectic Review, 1809-1848, 80 vols.

New York Review, 1037-1842, 10 vols.

Am. Antiquarian, 1878-1890, 10 vols.

Appleton's Art of the World, 10 vols.

Appleton's Cyclopædia of Applied Mechanics, 3 vols.

Savage's Genealogical Dictionary, 4 vols.

Reports of the New York Park Commissioners, 1858-1870.

Corneille, Oeuvres, 13 vols.

Shakespeare's, Scott's and Cooper's complete works in German.

#### THE ASSISTANTS.

The number of assistants remains the same as one year ago, Miss Irene Stewart, a graduate of our High School and of Michigan University, having been appointed to a place in the cataloguing room after the resignation of Miss Lindsay.

It is but justice to my able and amiable assistants to call your attention to the fact that with a library membership 25 per cent larger than it was four years ago, viz., 5,715 now, as compared with 4,549 then, and a circulation 58 per cent. larger, viz., 136,083 now, as compared with 86,137 then, which means a proportionate increase of work in all departments of the library, there has been no increase in the number of assistants, but on the contrary, we have one less than in 1891.

#### THE NEW LIBRARY BUILDING.

Since the spring of 1882 the Public Library has occupied leased rooms in the Mercantile Library Building, corner of Main and Jefferson streets. It has now the prospect of possessing a new home of its own before another year comes round, and since the history of the library makes a not uninteresting chapter in the history of our city, a short summary of it may be appropriate here.

What is now the Peoria Public Library had its origin in the autumn of 1855 in two small rival libraries—the Peoria Mercantile Library, organized October 22, 1855, and the Peoria Library Association, organized November 8, 1855, which, a year later, November 22, 1856, were very sensibly consolidated into one, under the name of the Peoria City Library.

Every library begins with a gift of books from a few book lovers, and some of the rarest and most valuable books in the library to-day bear on their fly-leaves the names of its early founders—doctors, lawyers, business men—intelligent, public-spirited, far-seeing men, prominent in the early annals of our city.

For nearly ten years the library remained in a small third-story room over what is now 311 Main street, and, until his death in 1863, the Rev. Thomas Griffiths, a man of scholarly attainments and respected by all who knew him, was the librarian, succeeded for two years by his son, Thomas H. Griffiths. The annual dues were \$2.00.

In the spring of 1865 the library was incorporated by a special act of the Legislature as The Peoria Mercantile Library Association, and the very handsome sum, for those days, of \$13,262.50 was raised in a few weeks by individual subscription for the purchase of the house and lot corner of Main and Jefferson streets, 54x171 feet, now known as the Mercantile Library property. This cost \$10,000 as it stood. The building, a dwelling house, was remodeled inside, and here on this corner the library has continued to remain until now.

In 1878 the old building was torn down and the present three story library building erected, at a cost of more than \$32,000, with money borrowed on the property, provision being made to pay off the debt gradually from the rents of offices and stores in the building. Still, as a subscription library, with annual dues of \$4.00, the membership never exceeded 286 in any one year, and the friends of the library felt then what now, with a free public library membership of 5,700, is a well assured fact, that this was not doing for our city what a public library ought to do.

Very naturally, therefore, when in 1880 the City Council passed an ordinance establishing a Free Public Library, to be supported by taxation, under the State Library law of 1872, public sentiment was already ripe for it.



The first meeting of the nine directors, appointed by the Mayor, Col. John Warner, was held April 20, 1880, and shortly after Mr. Fred. J. Soldan, of St. Louis, was chosen librarian.

April 19, 1881, the German Library gave their fine collection of 1,900 volumes to the Public Library, and in the spring of 1882 the Mercantile Library Association turned over as a gift to the Public Library, its entire collection of some 12,000 volumes, and leased its rooms to the same for a term of years.

Mr. Soldan remained librarian, to the eminent satisfaction of the public, until his untimely death, November 5, 1891. He began the library with nothing, and left it a well selected and well arranged library of over 40,000 volumes.

He was succeeded by the present librarian.

Early in 1894 the overcrowded condition of the library had become so pressingly noticeable that an agitation was begun to purchase another site and erect a new building exclusively for library purposes. The conditions were favorable. The Mercantile Library Association owned valuable property, which, with the growth of the city and by careful management, had risen in value from \$10,000 to \$75,000, less a debt of \$11,000 to \$12,000, which yet remained to be extinguished, and the Public Library owned 50,000 books. There was no good reason why the two should not now unite in the one common object of giving Peoria a great library to be proud of, provided some method could be devised for effecting the union satisfactorily to all parties.

At a meeting of the Directors of the Mercantile Library April 8, 1894, the subject was discussed in all its bearings and the initiative taken, the sense of the meeting being that an effort should be made to secure a new location as soon as possible and that a proposition should be made to the City Council to secure its cooperation in the matter. A committee was also appointed to obtain options on a suitable lot.

On the 18th of June the Directors of the Mercantile Library took formal action by making the following proposition to the City Council, in a communication addressed to that body, the vote being without a dissenting voice, to-wit:

"Whereas, the Directors of the Peoria Mercantile Library Association believe it would be a wise disposition of their trust as owners of the valuable library property, corner of Main and Jefferson streets, Peoria, Ill., to unite with

the Directors of the Public Library in the common purpose of providing the city of Peoria with a new and more commodious library building in a quieter location, less exposed to danger from fire, and exclusively for library purposes, and,

Whereas, at the suggestion of this Board the City Council of Peoria has now under consideration the matter of appropriating \$15,000, in three equal annual instalments, for the purchase of a suitable site for such library building; now, therefore,

Resolved, That if said City Council shall at its next regular meeting make such appropriation, the Directors of the Peoria Mercantile Library Association will at once proceed to advertise and, as soon as it can be done to advantage, sell their property, corner of Main and Jefferson streets, the net proceeds of such sale to be applied to the erection of such proposed library building, with the understanding that upon the completion of such library building it shall be and remain the exclusive property of the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library, as existing under the Public Library Act of the Legislature of the State of Illinois, approved and in force March 7, 1872.

Resolved further, That in our opinion the most satisfactory results will be obtained by uniting the judgment and experience of the two boards—the Peoria Mercantile Library Board and the Public Library Board—each with an equal voice in selecting a site, adopting plans and in carrying the same out to a final completion.”

June 20, 1894, the City Council, after reciting the above proposition made to them by the Directors of the Mercantile Library, took the following action without a dissenting voice:

“Resolved, That there shall be and is hereby appropriated the sum of “fifteen thousand dollars to be applied towards the purchasing of a suitable site “and grounds upon which to build and erect a new and appropriate Public Library building for the City of Peoria and its inhabitants in pursuance of the “foregoing proposition.”

June 28, 1894, at a joint meeting of the two library boards, all the members being present, the purchasing committee having reported that they had purchased from Dr. S. O. Loughridge and Mrs. Thos. Lindsay, subject to approval, three lots on Monroe street, nearly opposite the Government Building, 108 feet front by 171 feet deep, beginning 144 feet from the corner of Main and Monroe streets, for \$16,000, it was voted unanimously that the report of the committee be approved and their action concurred in and ratified.

In August the Librarian was sent east to visit libraries, with a view to the preparing of plans for the new library.

December 24, 1894, the Directors of the Mercantile Library Association sold their property, corner of Main and Jefferson

streets, to Dr. W. A. Gray for the sum of \$75,000, and on March 19, 1895, the joint building committee of six—J. D. McClure, E. S. Willcox and Philip Zell from the Mercantile Library Board, and T. M. McIlvaine, R. C. Grier and C. R. Vandervort from the Public Library Board, selected Messrs. Richardson & Salter, of this city, as architects, and instructed them to prepare plans.

July 10, 1895, bids were opened and the contract for the erection of the building was awarded to Mr. James Deal for \$52,786, he being the lowest of five bidders. This includes the erection of the building, steam heating, plumbing, gas fitting and electric wiring complete, but not the fire-proof framing, flooring and shelving of the book or stack room. The work of excavating for the foundation walls began the following morning, July 11.

The plans contemplate a three story building, 78x135, the lower story front to be of Lake Superior red sandstone, the upper stories and the rear to be of red brick with red stone trimmings. The main delivery room and reading room will be on the second floor with the book or stack room of five stories, each 7½ feet high from floor to floor, at the rear.

Since, for some years to come, it is not likely that the ground floor rooms will be needed for library purposes, nor all of the third story, the Directors have thought it not foreign to the objects of a public library to invite under their roof, and so concentrate around the library and foster, two other educational institutions of our city. It is proposed therefore, to let the Peoria Scientific Association occupy for the present, one-half of the first story, with its large and valuable natural history collection, and the Peoria Art League, one-half of the third story for a studio and art gallery. There will still remain unassigned, one-half of the first story, a convenient location for the Public School Board, if they should desire it.

Concerning the choice of an inside lot for the new library it may be not amiss to say: If the committee had had \$150,000 at their disposal their choice might have been different, but they had not the half of that sum. The new library building will be a gift out and out from the Mercantile Library Association to the City of Peoria, from the proceeds of the sale of the Mercantile Library property.

The site chosen is on one of the quietest streets in the heart of the city, midway in the block between our two street car lines. It is retired and yet easily accessible. The width of the lot, 108 feet, is sufficient to admit of a building of 78 feet front and still leave 15 feet of open space on each side for light and air. Its depth, 171 feet, will permit future extensions to the rear.

A corner lot as near the center of business, would have cost much more money and would have demanded a more expensive structure. It would also have exposed the library to greater annoyance from the noise and dust of street traffic. As it is now, only one front is required, and future enlargement, which should always be provided for, can be made by an extension of the stack room towards the alley at the rear, without affecting the front elevation and main building.

As planned, the library will be provided with all the delivery rooms, reading rooms, study rooms and offices needed for 100 years to come, and, without any alteration of plans, our successors here, fifty years from now, can extend the stack room on the same lines to accommodate 250,000 volumes more.

It will be seen then, that the committee, unless they were willing to run the city in debt, found themselves compelled to forego the pleasure of giving our people an imposing edifice, an architectural ornament to our city, to point to with pride. They had not the money to do it with. They confined themselves from necessity to providing a plain, serviceable building for our own every-day use, suitable for the convenient and secure storing, consulting and issuing of books, for fifty or a hundred years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

E. S. WILLCOX,

Librarian.

# Statistics for the Year 1894-95.

## RECEIPTS.

From city appropriation.....	\$14,154 02
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1894.....	49 16
Fines .....	489 77
Books damaged and paid for.....	7 55
Books lost and paid for.....	12 10
Extra books loaned.....	8 65
Duplicate cards.....	8 10
Memberships .....	10 00
Duplicate books sold.....	7 61
Catalogues sold.....	70 30
	<hr/> \$14,817 26

## EXPENDITURES.

Books .....	\$ 2,360 98
Periodicals .....	788 50
Binding (labor).....	1,569 14
Binding (materials).....	178 40
Binding (tools and machinery).....	16 85
Rent .....	688 00
Light .....	336 51
Salaries.....	5,502 25
Expense.....	778 41
Stationery .....	182 09
Furniture and fixtures.....	22 00
Insurance.....	372 60
New library building.....	531 21
Real estate.....	1,101 89
Catalogues.....	336 15
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1895.....	52 28
	<hr/> \$14,817 26

## MEMBERSHIPS.

Memberships in force June 1, 1894.....	5,150
Memberships issued during the year.....	<u>2,932</u>
Total .....	8,082
Memberships expired during the year.....	<u>2,367</u>
Memberships in force May 31, 1895.....	5,715

# CONTENTS OF LIBRARY.

June 1st, 1894—		
Books in circulation.....	50,139 vols.	
Duplicates not in use.....		2,054 vols.
Unbound pamphlets (estimated).....		2,134 “
Losses—		
Lost and paid for.....	21 vols.	
Worn out and withdrawn.....	317 “	
Given to the Bowman Library.....	42 “	
Total losses.....	380 vols.	
	49,759 vols.	
Additions—		
By purchase.....	2,141 vols.	
By donation.....	462 “	
By periodicals bound.....	459 “	
Total additions.....	3,062 vols.	
Total books in circulation.....		52,821 vols.
Duplicates not in use.....	2,064 vols.	
Duplicates given to the Bowman Li- brary.....	108 “	
	1,956 vols.	
Pamphlets.....	2,384 “	
		4,340 vols.
Total contents May 31, 1895.....		
		57,161 vols.
Number of periodicals taken and always accessible in the reading-room—		
Dailies.....		12
Weeklies.....		57
Bi-weeklies.....		9
Monthlies.....		132
Bi-monthlies.....		9
Quarterlies.....		33
Total.....		252

## NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED,

		PER CENT.
Philosophy.....	894	0.66
Theology.....	1,174	0.86
Social and Political Science.....	1,867	1.37
Natural Science and Useful Arts.....	5,786	4.25
Fine Arts and Poetry.....	3,944	2.90
Fiction.....	62,394	45.85
Juvenile Fiction.....	35,421	26.03
Literary Miscellany.....	4,823	3.55
History and Travel.....	14,144	10.39
Cyclopædias and Periodicals.....	5,636	4.14
Total.....	136,083	100.00
Highest issue on any week day during 1894-5, Feb. 23, 1895.....		
		1,265 vols.
Lowest issue on any week day during 1894-5, Sept. 12, 1894.....		
		183 “



**DELINQUENTS.**

Books kept over time during the year .....	10.123
Number of fine notices sent .....	982
Number of notices to guarantors .....	54
Number of notices for books reserved .....	817

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class June 1, 1894, the losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents of the Library May 31, 1895:

	Total vols. in Library May 31, 1894.	Lost and paid for.	Worn out and withdrawn.	Balance.	No. vols. added 1894-95.	Total vols. in Library May 31, 1895.	
						No.	Per Cent.
Philosophy .....	772	....	1	771	34	805	1.52
Theology .....	2,000	....	5	1,995	121	2,116	4.01
Social and Political Sciences .....	6,568	2	1	6,565	471	7,036	13.32
Natural Sciences and Useful Arts .....	5,806	....	2	5,804	289	6,093	11.54
Fine Arts, Poetry and Music .....	3,324	1	4	3,319	187	3,506	6.64
Fiction .....	7,857	8	169	7,680	545	8,225	15.57
Juvenile Literature .....	4,417	2	148	4,267	441	4,708	8.91
Literary Miscellany .....	4,084	1	4	4,079	154	4,233	8.01
History and Travel .....	10,002	7	24	9,971	430	10,401	19.69
Cyclopædias and Periodicals .....	5,309	....	1	5,308	390	5,698	10.79
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>50,139</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>49,759</b>	<b>3,062</b>	<b>52,821</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**CHARACTER OF ADDITIONS.**

English .....	2,864
German .....	140
French .....	41
Italian .....	2
Latin .....	15

**Total .....** 3,062

Purchased .....	2,141
Donations .....	462
Periodicals .....	459

**Total .....** 3,062

**BINDERY.**

Books bound .....	854
Newspapers bound .....	41
Books rebound .....	1,522
Books repaired .....	509
Portfolios .....	32

**Total .....** 2,958



## SIZES.

32°	24°	16°	12°	8°	4°	Folios	
6	58	531	759	823	114	126	Total, 2,417
Portfolios and books repaired, miscellaneous sizes,							541

Total, 2,958

Fiction lists bound in paper, 797.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }  
 COUNTY OF PEORIA, } ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of June, A. D. 1895, by E.  
 S. Willcox, Librarian.

LEWIS B. HOWE, *Notary Public*.



THE  
SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND THE

39th Annual Report since its First Organization  
as the Peoria City Library

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PEORIA, ILLINOIS

For the Year Ending May 31, 1896



**DIRECTORS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY FROM ITS ORIGIN,  
APRIL, 1880.**

John S. Lee.....	1880 to 1889
James C. Dolan.....	1880 " 1894
Mathew Henebery .....	1880 " 1894
Bernard Cremer.....	1880 " date
Henry Ullman.....	1880 " date
Austin F. Johnson.....	1880 " 1884
J. M. Hutchinson.....	1880 " 1884
Chas. B. Allaire.....	1880 " 1883
Geo. B. Foster.....	1880 " 1886
James Millard .....	1884 " 1886
Matthew Griswold.....	1884 " 1896
Robert C. Grier.....	1884 " date
Henry W. Wells.....	1886 " date
Dan F. Raum .....	1886 " 1889
Thos. B. Burnett.....	1889 " 1890
Geo. B. Foster.....	1889 " 1892
Thos. M. McIlvaine.....	1890 " date
Edward Hine.....	1892 " 1895
Chas. W. Vandervort.....	1894 " date
Frank Meyer .....	1894 " date
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1895 " date
Mark W. Goss.....	1896 " date

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1896-97.

MARK W. GOSS, 322 South Washington Street . . .	Term expires 1897
THOMAS M. McILVAINE, 516 Main Street . . .	" " 1897
FRANK MEYER, 1313 South Adams Street . . .	" " 1897
BERNARD CREMER, German-American National Bank	" " 1898
LEONARD F. HOUGHTON, Peoria National Bank . .	" " 1898
HENRY W. WELLS, 325 Main Street . . .	" " 1898
ROBERT C. GRIER, Board of Trade . . .	" " 1899
HENRY ULLMAN, 120 South Washington Street . .	" " 1899
CHARLES R. VANDERVORT, 519 N. Jefferson Ave. .	" " 1899

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### OFFICERS.

R. C. GRIER,	PRESIDENT.
H. W. WELLS,	VICE-PRESIDENT.
B. CREMER,	SECRETARY.

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### STANDING COMMITTEES.

Finance and Auditing—Ullman, Houghton, Meyer.
Library and Reading Room—Wells, Cremer, McIlvaine, Vandervort, Goss.
Building and Grounds—McIlvaine, Vandervort, Grier.
Bindery—Meyer, Cremer, Wells.
Administration—Houghton, Goss, Ullman.

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### LIBRARY SERVICE.

*Librarian*—E. S. WILLCOX.

*Assistants :*

Emilie E. Brendel,	Anna L. Archer,	John M. Youngman,
Loura B. Grant,	Elizabeth T. Ellis,	Maclay Booth.*
Harry Werschut,	Irene Stewart,	

*In the Bindery :*

George F. Walker, †	Richard J. Cross, ‡	Ruth McKenzie,
Rachel Garrabrant,		Edith A. Quinn.

*Evening Attendant*—Samuel W. Dodge.

*Janitress*—Mrs. Mary Theena.

The library is open for the delivery of books, except on Sundays and holidays, from 9 A. M. until 8 P. M.; on Saturdays until 9 P. M.

Reading Room open from 9 A. M. until 9 P. M.; on Sundays, from 2 P. M. until 6 P. M.

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\* Occasional. † Until April. ‡ From April.

## Report of the Directors.

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*To the Mayor and City Council of the City of Peoria.*

GENTLEMEN:—In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 81 of the revised statutes of the State of Illinois, the directors of the Peoria Public Library herewith respectfully submit to your honorable body the annexed report of our librarian, showing the condition of the library May 31, 1896, the receipts and disbursements of moneys, the number and the character of the books purchased and loaned out during the year and the whole number and character of the books now composing the Peoria Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

R. C. GRIER,  
President.

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## Report of the Librarian.

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*To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library.*

GENTLEMEN:—I beg leave to present herewith my report for the year ending May 31, 1896, being the 16th annual report of the Peoria Public Library and the 39th annual report of the same library since its origin as the Peoria City Library.

For detailed statistics I refer to the tabulated statements appended.

The number of volumes in the library and in circulation one year ago was 52,821. During the year there have been added by purchase, gift and periodicals bound, 3,338 vols. Deducting 566 vols. lost and paid for or worn out and withdrawn, the number in the library and in circulation at the present time is, 55,593. This does not include duplicates and pamphlets.

The circulation of books for the year just closed was 139,565 as compared with 136,083 for the year immediately preceding, a gain of 3,482. Of these there were issued for home use 134,137 and for use in the library alone 5,428.

This latter item, 5,428, is, however, of very little value as a matter of statistics, since no record is kept of the large number of works of reference consulted from the open shelves in the reading room, nor of the 261 periodicals always accessible to the public without request, and only a very imperfect record is kept of works of reference called for from the alcoves. An accurate count of all works of reference consulted would have shown probably more than 20,000 to the credit of room use instead of 5,428.

The gain in circulation of only 3,482 this year is disappointing when compared with that of our report one year ago, which was 16,223. This is partly accounted for in our fiction issues.

For the year 1894-95 our issue of fiction and juvenile fiction was 97,815 vols. or  $71\frac{88}{100}$  per cent. of our total issue, while for this last year our issue of fiction and juvenile fiction was 95,872 vols., or  $68\frac{69}{100}$  per cent. of our total issue; or, in other words, our total circulation shows a gain of 3,482 vols. but a loss in fiction of 1,943 vols.

This falling off in fiction may be partly owing to the bicycle, partly to a natural lassitude and reaction following after a number of highly stimulating novels the year before, and also partly to the fact that for two years now, for economic reasons, our book purchases have been held somewhat in check until our new library building shall be completed.

Furthermore, the experience of the last two years has made librarians a little slow and somewhat shy in the purchase of fiction. The well-earned reputation of a famous novelist, the honored name of a great publishing house, these are no longer the guaranty they once were of the fitness of a book for the public library.

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According to our usual practice, we last fall placed a carefully selected library in each of four of our city schools farthest removed from the central library, viz:



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In the Lee School.....	108 vols.
" " Sumner School.....	182 "
" " Douglas School .....	199 "
" " Garfield School .....	259 "

these school libraries thus serving to some extent as branch libraries in their respective neighborhoods, for the families of the pupils as well as for the pupils themselves.

The number and character of the books issued at each school were as follows:

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	Garfield	Sumner	Lee	Douglas	Total
Literature.....	77	55	25	28	185
Science, Art, Religion.....	988	242	85	200	1,515
History, Biography, Travels..	2,212	620	120	495	3,447
Fiction, Fairy Tales, Legends	1,243	296	110	167	1,816
Total .....	4,520	1,213	340	890	6,963

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The work of revising and amplifying our system of classification was completed in March and a thorough revision and correction of our card catalogue is approaching completion. Our new subject card catalogue, comprising more than 23,000 cards in 23 drawers, is now fairly complete, forming one of our most valuable tools for daily use.

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From other libraries, public institutions, societies and individuals we receive many reports, catalogues and pamphlets which are duly acknowledged at the time. Among gifts of especial value received during the year are the following:

The Peoria Journal Co., publishing our bi-monthly lists of new books.

Rev. S. H. Moore, Peoria, English art in 1884.

Geo. E. Dawson, Proceedings of the Board of Trustees of the Sanitary District of Chicago, 1893, 1894, 1895.

Mr. Cantelo, Histoire generale de christianisme, by Bost, 4 vols.

James Barkman, Drown's Peoria directory for 1844.

J. B. Greenhut, American Jew as patriot and soldier, by Simon Wolf.

W. McRoberts, Rounding Cape Horn.

Hon. Rich. Dallam, Maryland, it's resources, industries, etc.

Sam'l. C. Busey, Personal reminiscences.

Chas. Gildehaus, In rhyme and time.

Sarah Storrs Proctor Howe, The Storrs' family genealogy.

Hon. Bernard A. Eckhart, President Board of Trustees of the Chicago Sanitary District, map of Drainage District, profile of the Illinois River, and cross-sections of American and foreign canals.

Among the more valuable purchases during the year were:

Pugin, Examples of Gothic architecture.

Heitman's Historical register of the U. S. Army.

Kirkman's Science of railways, 12 vols.

American ancestry, 9 vols.

Coues' Expeditions of Pike, 4 vols.

Cram's Standard American railway atlas.

Huebinger's Standard Atlas of Peoria City and County.

Hazlitt, History of the Venetian republic.

Viollet le Duc, Dictionnaire de l' architecture, 10 vols.

Transactions and proceedings of the American society of civil engineers, vol. 1 to date, 34 vols.

American naturalist, 1869-1874.

Annual register, 1820.

Journal of the Franklin institute, 1839, 1841, 1856-1860.

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#### THE NEW LIBRARY BUILDING.

In our last report mention was made of the letting of the contract for the new library building on Monroe Street.

This building, a gift from the Peoria Mercantile Library Association to the Peoria Public Library Board, is now completed, all but the inside finishing, and has been carried through without any material change in the original plans.

One considerable additional expense not originally provided for, was decided on—the artistic decoration of the ceiling and side walls in the third and clere stories. The contract for doing this work was given to Messrs. F. C. Peyraud and H. G. Maratta, of Chicago, whose work so far as it has progressed, gives every promise of most satisfactory results.

It is now confidently expected that the entire building will be ready for occupancy by October 1st.

The number of assistants in the library and bindery remains the same as one year ago, and to their faithful and obliging services the smooth working of the library is chiefly due.

**MR. MATTHEW GRISWOLD.**

Died, January 13th, 1896, Mr. Matthew Griswold in the eightieth year of his age, a Director in this library and, until prostrated by his final illness, its honored President.

Mr. Griswold was born in New York City, Nov. 20th, 1816, of a family prominent in the early history of Connecticut and distinguished likewise for an honorable mercantile career in the City of New York.

He removed to Peoria in 1840. In 1855 he assisted in the starting of the first public library here. In 1860 his name appears as one of the Directors, and, under its successive growths into City Library, Mercantile Library and Public Library, continuously thereafter until his death. He was thus connected with our Peoria library uninterruptedly for forty-one years, a Director for thirty-six years, and for sixteen years of that time its President.

This is an extraordinary if not a unique record of life long, disinterested service in the interest of a public library.

It is hardly necessary to add, that Mr. Griswold was a man of refined tastes, a liberal minded, public-spirited citizen, but by those who were for years associated with him he will always be remembered as something more—as a man respected and beloved by all who knew him, one of the kindest hearted men that ever lived, a wise counsellor, a genial gentleman and a sympathetic friend.

Mr. Mark W. Goss was appointed by the Mayor to fill out his unexpired term of office.

Respectfully submitted,

E. S. WILLCOX,  
Librarian.

## Statistics for the Year 1895-96.

### RECEIPTS.

From City appropriation .....	\$14,096 00
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1895.....	52 28
Fines.....	475 97
Books damaged and paid for.....	9 30
Books lost and paid for.....	33 62
Extra books loaned .....	6 30
Duplicate cards.....	7 10
Memberships .....	7 35
Duplicate books sold.....	1 07
Catalogues sold.....	22 50
	\$14,711 49

### EXPENDITURES.

Books .....	\$ 3,109 89
Periodicals .....	768 83
Binding (labor) .....	1,511 12
Binding (materials).....	220 79
Rent .....	688 00
Light.....	373 78
Salaries .....	5,540 69
Expense.....	524 66
Stationery .....	245 45
Furniture and Fixtures.....	2 40
Insurance.....	411 70
New library building .....	1,272 62
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1896.....	41 56
	\$14,711 49

### MEMBERSHIPS.

Memberships in force June 1, 1895 .....	5,715
Memberships issued during the year .....	2,890
Total .....	8,605
Memberships expired during the year.....	2,783
Memberships in force May 31, 1896 .....	5,822

**CONTENTS OF LIBRARY.**

June 1st, 1895—

Books in circulation .....	52,821 vols.	1,111 / 11
Duplicates not in use .....		1,956 vols,
Unbound pamphlets (estimated) .....		2,384 "

Losses—

Lost and paid for .....	29 vols.	
Worn out and withdrawn .....	537 "	
Total losses .....	—	566 vols.
		52,255 vols.

Additions—

By purchase .....	2,544 vols.	
By donation .....	347 "	
By periodicals bound .....	447 "	
Total additions .....	—	3,338 vols.

Total books in circulation .....		55,593 vols.
Duplicates not in use .....	1,966 vols.	
Duplicates returned to Commissioner of public documents .....	279 "	
		1,687 vols.
Pamphlets .....	2,738 "	
		4,425 vols.

Total contents May 31, 1895 ..... 60,018 vols.

Number of periodicals taken and always accessible in the reading-room—

Dailies .....	12
Weeklies .....	58
Bi-weeklies .....	9
Monthlies .....	143
Bi-monthlies .....	7
Quarterlies .....	32
Total .....	261

**NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED.**

		PER CENT.
Philosophy .....	1,213	0.87
Theology .....	1,396	1.
Social and political science .....	1,742	1.24
Natural science and useful arts .....	6,774	4.86
Fine arts and poetry .....	3,772	2.70
Fiction .....	61,566	44.11
Juvenile fiction .....	34,306	24.58
Literary miscellany .....	5,100	3.66
History and travel .....	17,654	12.65
Cyclopædias and periodicals .....	6,042	4.33
Total .....	139,565	100.00

Of the above, were taken for home use.....	134,137 vols.
“ “ “ issued in the Library .....	5,428 “
Total.....	139,565 vols.
Highest issue on any week day during 1895-6, February 8, 1896.....	1,110 vols.
Lowest issue on any week day during 1895-6, July 17, 1895.....	218 “

## DELINQUENTS.

Books kept over time during the year.....	9,940
Number of fine notices sent.....	1,203
Number of notices to guarantors.....	52
Number of notices for books reserved.....	558

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class June 1, 1895, the losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents of the Library, May 31, 1896:

	Total vols. in Library, May 31, 1895.	Lost and paid for.	Worn out and withdrawn.	Balance.	No. Volumes added 1895-96.	Total Vols. in Library, May 31, 1896.	
						No.	Per Cent.
Philosophy .....	805	1	....	804	30	834	1.50
Theology.....	2,116	....	1	2,115	99	2,214	3.98
Social and political sciences .....	7,036	....	....	7,036	381	7,417	13.34
Natural sciences and useful arts ..	6,093	1	1	6,091	341	6,432	11.57
Fine arts, poetry and music .....	3,506	1	1	3,504	140	3,644	6.56
Fiction.....	8,225	8	300	7,917	669	8,586	15.45
Juvenile literature .....	4,708	13	226	4,469	692	5,161	9.28
Literary miscellany.....	4,233	3	6	4,224	164	4,388	7.89
History and travel.....	10,401	2	1	10,398	461	10,859	19.53
Cyclopædias and periodicals .....	5,698	....	1	5,697	361	6,058	10.90
Total .....	52,821	29	537	52,255	3,338	55,593	100.00

## CHARACTER OF ADDITIONS.

English.....	3,131
German .....	173
French .....	33
Latin .....	1
Total .....	3,338
Purchased .....	2,544
Donations .....	347
Periodicals.....	447
Total .....	3,338

**VOLUMES ISSUED FROM EACH CLASS, 1880-1895.**

	1881	1881-82	1882-83	1883-84	1884-85	1885-86	1886-87	1887-88	1888-89	1889-90	1890-91	1891-92	1892-93	1893-94	1894-95	1895-96
Philosophy.....	180	222	251	323	416	414	220	329	320	594	631	631	833	749	894	1,213
Theology.....	71	266	336	538	572	614	466	664	763	990	1,278	1,375	935	1,302	1,114	1,266
Social science.....	88	308	436	632	698	773	872	677	870	1,278	1,564	1,757	1,564	1,857	1,742	1,886
Natural science, useful arts.	427	1,647	1,602	2,001	2,338	2,540	1,775	1,911	3,231	4,408	3,709	4,404	5,581	5,756	6,712	7,172
Fine arts and poetry.....	261	1,077	1,403	1,531	1,411	1,282	1,314	1,015	1,407	1,983	2,427	2,643	3,306	3,589	3,944	3,772
Fiction.....	4,889	22,761	36,582	43,983	43,822	39,953	26,876	36,696	43,015	39,058	42,046	48,700	53,312	62,384	61,566	67,812
Juvenile fiction.....	3,727	14,506	17,236	10,657	23,669	27,941	16,443	28,636	28,419	22,092	22,331	22,404	30,150	35,421	34,360	38,431
Literary miscellany.....	148	2,313	1,735	1,933	1,765	1,935	1,539	1,652	2,427	3,250	3,370	4,089	4,089	4,644	4,823	5,100
History and travel.....	1,683	4,377	3,697	5,652	6,551	5,943	6,041	5,122	6,445	8,508	8,718	10,619	13,411	14,141	17,653	17,653
Cyclopedias and periodicals	301	1,386	2,439	2,706	2,218	2,244	2,617	2,763	2,253	2,469	2,632	3,208	4,412	5,229	5,636	6,042
Total.....	11,987	48,703	55,090	78,914	84,052	87,240	77,738	54,849	79,572	89,892	88,137	96,644	96,382	119,860	126,033	139,565

PERCENTAGE OF ISSUE OF EACH CLASS, 1880-1895.

[illegible]

**BINDERY.**

Books bound.....	419
Books rebound.....	1,831
Books repaired.....	2,591
Portfolios.....	53
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>4,894</b>

**SIZES.**

32°	24°	16°	12°	8°	4°	Folios	
15	90	576	961	441	112	55	Total, 2,250
Portfolios and books repaired, miscellaneous sizes.....							2,644
<b>Total.....</b>							<b>4,894</b>
Fiction lists bound in paper .....							423
Fiction lists check bound.....							30

E. S. WILLCOX, Librarian.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }  
COUNTY OF PEORIA, } ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of June, A. D. 1896, by E.  
S. Willcox, Librarian.

LEWIS B. HOWE, *Notary Public.*



THE  
SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

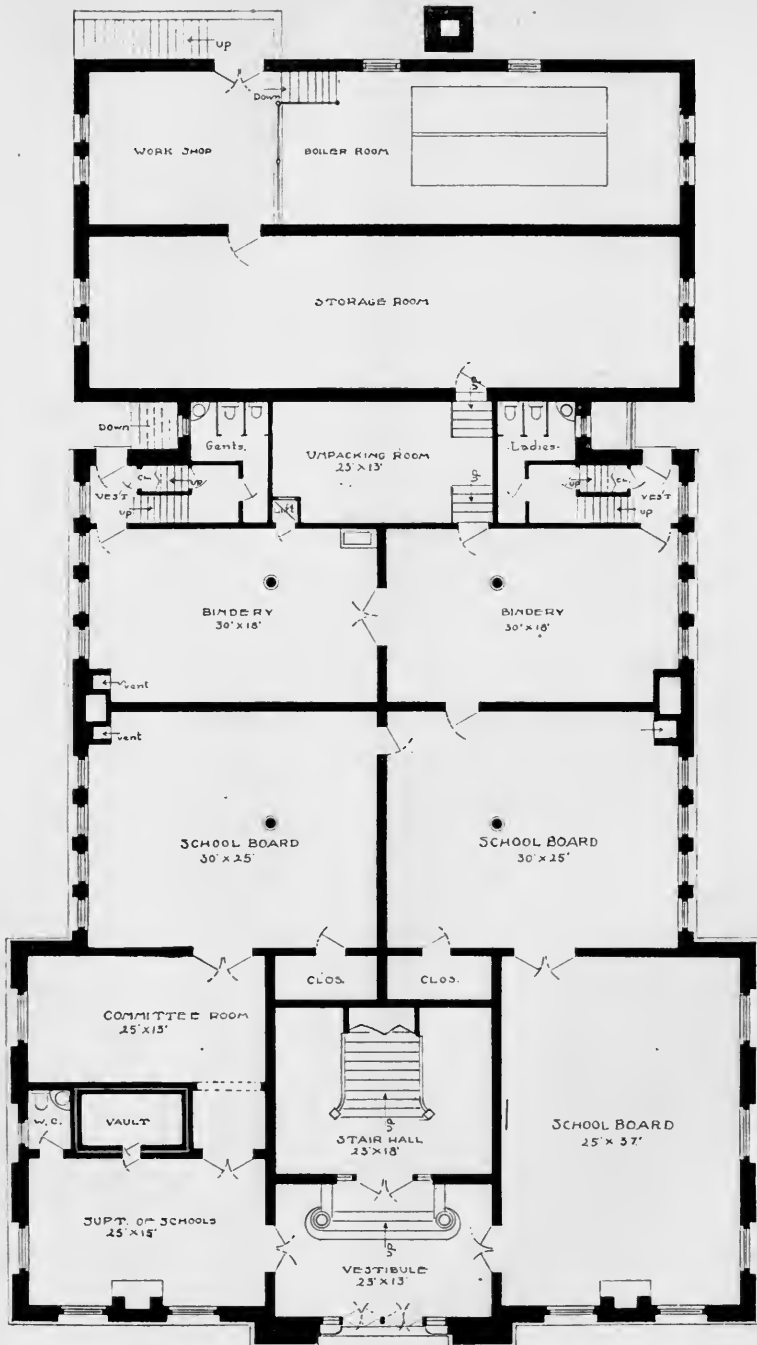
AND THE

Fortieth Annual Report since its First Organization  
as the Peoria City Library

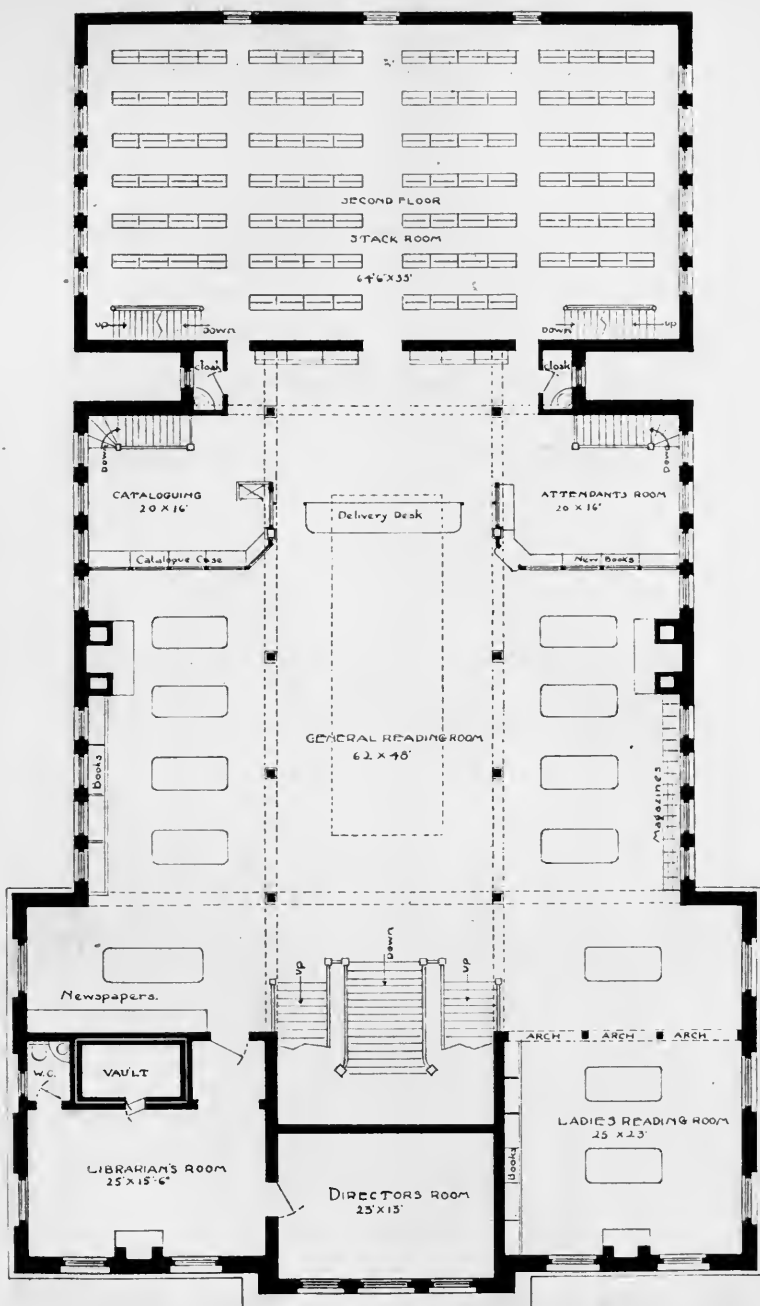
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PEORIA, ILLINOIS

For the Year Ending May 31, 1897

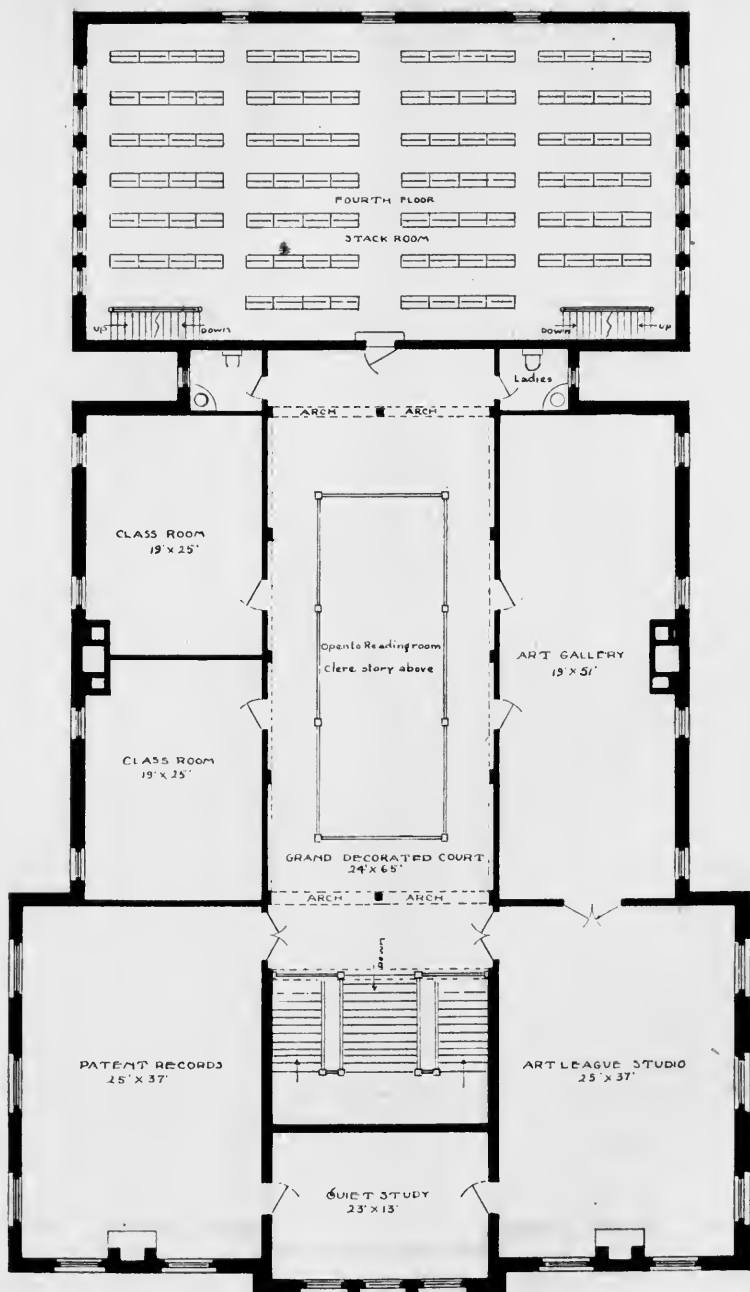


FIRST FLOOR.



-MAIN FLOOR PLAN -  
-PUBLIC LIBRARY-  
-PEORIA ILLINOIS-

D2989



-THIRD FLOOR PLAN-

**DIRECTORS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FROM ITS ORIGIN, APRIL, 1880.**

John S. Lee.....	1880 to 1889
James C. Dolan.....	1880 " 1894
Mathew Henebery.....	1880 " 1894
Bernard Cremer.....	1880 " date
Henry Ullman.....	1880 " date
Austin F. Johnson.....	1880 " 1884
J. M. Hutchinson.....	1880 " 1884
Chas. B. Allaire.....	1880 " 1883
Geo. B. Foster.....	1880 " 1886
James Millard.....	1884 " 1886
Matthew Griswold.....	1884 " 1896
Robert C. Grier.....	1884 " date
Henry W. Wells.....	1886 " date
Dan F. Raum.....	1886 " 1889
Thos. B. Burnett.....	1889 " 1890
Geo. B. Foster.....	1889 " 1892
Thos. M. McIlvaine.....	1890 " date
Edward Hine.....	1892 " 1895
Chas. R. Vandervort.....	1894 " date
Frank Meyer.....	1894 " 1897
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1895 " date
Mark W. Goss.....	1896 " 1897
Samuel D. Wead.....	1897
James P. Nailon.....	1897

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1897 98.

BERNARD CREMER, German-American National Bank, Term expires 1898		
LEONARD F. HOUGHTON, Peoria National Bank .....	"	" 1898
HENRY W. WELLS, 325 Main Street.....	"	" 1898
ROBERT C. GRIER, Board of Trade.....	"	" 1899
HENRY ULLMAN, 120 South Washington Street .....	"	" 1899
CHARLES R. VANDERVORT, 519 N. Jefferson Ave....	"	" 1899
THOMAS M. McILVAINE, 516 Main Street.....	"	" 1900
SAMUEL D. WEAD, 129 N. Jefferson Ave. ....	"	" 1900
JAMES P. NAILON, 310 Liberty Street .....	"	" 1900

## OFFICERS.

R. C. GRIER,	. . .	PRESIDENT.
H. W. WELLS,	. . .	VICE-PRESIDENT.
B. CREMER,	. . .	SECRETARY.

## STANDING COMMITTEES.

Finance and Auditing—Ullman, Cremer, Nailon.

Book—Wells, Vandervort, Wead.

Executive—Grier, *ex-officio*, McIlvaine, Houghton.

## LIBRARY SERVICE.

*Librarian*—E. S. WILLCOX.

### *Assistants:*

Emilie E. Brendel,	Anna L. Archer,	John M. Youngman,
Loura B. Grant,*	Elizabeth T. Ellis,	Maclay Booth,‡
Harry Werschut,†	Irene Stewart,	Harold H. Willcox,§
	Helen M. Ballard.	

### *In the Bindery:*

Richard J. Cross,	Ruth McKenzie,
Rachel Garrabrant,	Edith M. Quinn.

*Evening Attendant*—Samuel W. Dodge.

*Engineer*—John J. Steiger.

*Janitress*—Mrs. Mary Theena.

The Library is open for the delivery of books, except on Sundays and holidays, from 9 A. M. until 8 P. M.; on Saturdays until 9 P. M.

Reading Room open from 9 A. M. until 9 P. M.; on Sundays from 2 P. M. until 6 P. M.

\*Until Dec. 12. †Until March. ‡From February. §From March. ¶Occasional.

## Report of the Directors.

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*To the Hon. John Warner, Mayor, and to the Members of the City Council of Peoria:*

On behalf of the Directors, the Annual Report of the Public Library, as required by the statute, is hereby submitted.

The library year terminating May 31, 1897, has been of more than usual interest to the citizens of Peoria. The year was especially eventful by the completion and occupation of the new library building, February 11. This coming into possession of a permanent home, ample in proportions for library use for many years to come, with all the appliances suggested by library experience as developed in similar enterprises in different sections of our country, attractive in appearance, and in all ways a structure worthy of commendation, is a cause for sincere congratulation. We may refer to it as a new era from which to date renewed interest and increased usefulness. It is a strengthening of foundations, a spur to activity in library affairs.

Library development in Peoria, with its beginning more than forty years ago, is interesting in review. There was the early effort in the day of small things. The energetic devotion of citizens with the higher good in mind during years of struggling effort. Then an enthusiastic rally, resulting in the Mercantile Library being chartered. There were liberal subscriptions and endowments, careful management, judicious investments, and an abiding hope during thirty years of a result that would grant lasting benefits to library interests in Peoria.

Soon after the founding of the Free Public Library in 1880, it received as a donation the valuable collection of books, the property

of the Mercantile Library Association, and in 1895 the commercial assets, about \$70,000, as represented in the new Public Library building.

The year in review, as you may note by the Librarian's report herewith, shows advance possibly commensurate with the facilities at hand. The current year and present equipment should note decided advancement.

The Public Library is the property of all the citizens of Peoria. There can be no difference of opinion as to the great good possible, and benefits to be derived by its frequent use. There is anxiety by your Directors that there should be better and more extended appreciation of the library by the people of all conditions, all ages, all faiths, without in any way even an appearance of discrimination.

It is the intention of the Directors and those especially charged with administration, to extend, through the medium of the public schools, the advantages of the central home to more distant portions of the city, thus affording better facilities for selection and securing of books desired.

If possible, it is our desire to arrange, at the larger industries, for supplying the desires and needs of working men unable to come to the central location, either because of distance, expense, or lack of time. This feature is under discussion and investigation.

We deem it our duty to leave nothing undone; to extend to all who will accept, the benefits of the Public Library.

We wish to popularize. Your Directors are ready to drop old established ways and adopt improvements and new ways; are not wedded to ideas and plans that do not satisfy or please the public—our constituents.

In visiting the Library, if there is an air of constraint or discipline, we wish to displace it with a home feeling. We can trust to good common sense and a natural tendency of propriety on all occasions for a proper standard of library good manners. Pleasant anticipations should always accompany a visit to the library. Attention and faithful service are sure to gain the respect of all who enter our doors.



We wish to express our appreciation of the ability and satisfactory performance of duty on the part of the young ladies and gentlemen employed in the library.

We have pleasure in acknowledging the disposition of successive Mayors and Councilmen to liberally appropriate and provide for the support of the library.

Respectfully,

R. C. GRIER, *President.*

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## Report of the Librarian.

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### *To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library:*

GENTLEMEN:— I beg leave to present herewith my report for the year ending May 31, 1897, being the Seventeenth Annual Report of the Peoria Public Library and the Fortieth Annual Report of the same library since its origin as the Peoria City Library.

For detailed statistics I refer to the tabulated statements appended.

The number of volumes in the library and in circulation one year ago was 55,593. During the year have been added by purchase, gift, and periodicals bound, 3,000 volumes. Deducting 488 volumes lost and paid for, or worn out and withdrawn, the number in the library and in circulation at the present time is 58,105. This does not include duplicates and pamphlets.

The circulation for the year was 138,464, a falling off of 1,101 from that of the preceding year. But for the interruption caused by closing the library eighteen days in January and February for removal, the circulation would have exceeded that of last year.

According to our usual practice, we last fall placed a carefully selected library in each of three of our city schools farthest removed from our central library, viz:

In the Douglas School .....	174 vols.
“ Sumner School .....	228 “
“ Garfield School .....	257 “

these schools thus serving to some extent as branch libraries in their respective neighborhoods, for the families of the pupils as well as for the pupils themselves.

The number and character of the books issued at each school will be found under Statistics for the year.

The gratifying interest shown by both parents and children in these issues from the schools leads us to expect much larger demands upon us for the coming year, when three more schools—the Blaine, Lee and Whittier—will be supplied in the same manner.

Our card catalogue of authors, titles and subjects, arranged in one alphabetical order on the dictionary plan, has been completed and is now kept up to date. It comprises over 75,000 cards in 82 drawers, and is conveniently placed near the delivery desk. From the constant use of it by our public, it appears to be well understood and much appreciated.

No exact inventory of the books in our library has been taken since 1889. The removal into our new building and the more convenient arrangement of the books in the new quarters gave us an opportunity to take such an account of stock with the following result:

BOOKS MISSING AT THE TAKING OF INVENTORY.

<i>Class.</i>	<i>1889.</i>	<i>1897.</i>
2—5.....	....	4
6—16.....	2	1
17—34.....	31	7
35—63.....	33	26
64—68.....	24	14
69.....	211	77
70.....	192	65
71—78.....	38	16
79—97.....	59	22
98—100.....	36	9
	<hr/> 626	<hr/> 241

Of the 626 volumes missing in 1889, 16 were found while taking the present inventory.

In our scheme of classification, classes 2—63 include philosophy, religion, social, political and natural science, and useful arts. 69 is fiction, 70 is juveniles, 71—78 literature, and 79—100 geography and travels, history, biography, and miscellaneous.

### REFERENCE WORK.

A good test of the usefulness of a library lies in its ability to furnish answers to the thousand and one questions ranging over the entire field of human inquiry, which are brought to it for solution; for a great library is the modern Delphic oracle to whose portals all Greece, all the world, comes questioning, and the priestess of Apollo, sitting on her tripod there, must give no ambiguous answer.

Our library is now so large and, what is still better, so well balanced in its various departments, that very few questions are likely to arise which have not their answer somewhere within its four walls if we only know just where to look for them. The greater number of inquiries are easily answered by the regular assistants at the delivery counter; but for the prompt and satisfactory answer to more recondite questions from students, teachers, reading clubs, and investigators pursuing special subjects, a much more than average acquaintance with the contents of books is needed. One of our assistants, well equipped for such work from having just finished the re-classifying and cataloguing of the library, has been assigned to this duty. Her reference or information desk is conveniently placed in a corner of the reading room near the card catalogue case, and I am sure that this new department will become one of the best appreciated and most serviceable to the public of any in the Library.

### THE NEW LIBRARY.

The one memorable event of the year for us was the completing and occupying of our new library building on Monroe street.

How it came about that the City of Peoria became the recipient of so splendid a gift to one of its institutions from another of its institutions is recounted in the historical address given at the opening exercises of the new library.

The total cost of the building, not including the land, for which the city paid \$16,000, nor counting such improvements as paving, etc., that is, the cost of the building proper, was \$67,856.34, and this amount was paid entirely by the Peoria Mercantile Library Association, from the proceeds of the sale of their property, corner of Main Street and Jefferson Avenue. Nor should it be forgotten that the Mercantile Library Association had already, in January, 1882, given to the Public Library its entire collection of books, 12,000 volumes, the careful accumulation of seventeen years, forming thus the nucleus of our present library.

The following tabulated statement cannot but be of interest, not only to the members of the two library boards, but also to every citizen of Peoria:

STATEMENT of moneys received and expended by the Peoria Mercantile Library Association in closing up its affairs and in erecting the Peoria Public Library building.

January 1, 1895—

The Mercantile Library had on hand from rents.....	\$754.91	
Rents collected to April 1 .....	2,519.86	
Interest on bank balances to May 3, 1897.....	385.73	
		<u>\$3,660.53</u>

January–September, 1895—

Paid out—Expense items .....	\$548.73	
Taxes and assessments .....	1,690.05	
		<u>2,238.78</u>

Leaving balance to apply on bonds ..... \$1,421.75

Outstanding bonds—

Paid January 2 to March 1, 1895 .....		\$11,237.34
Paid from rents.....	\$1,421.75	
Paid out of W. A. Gray's payments.....	9,815.59	
		<u>\$11,237.34</u>

W. A. Gray's purchase payments .....		\$75,000.00
Interest on deferred payments.....	\$2,795.00	
Less interest on advance payments .....	123.07	
		<u>\$2,671.93</u>

Total received from W. A. Gray..... \$77,671.93

Paid from this on bonds..... 9,815.59

Total put into the Library building ..... \$67,856.34

As follows—

James Deal, on contract.....	\$54,510.20	
“ “ “ extras.....	1,176.49	
		<u>\$55,686.69</u>
Snead Iron Works, stacks .....		6,820.00
Richardson & Salter, architects .....		3,427.73
Peyraud & Maratta, artists .....		1,164.42
Truesdale Co., shelving .....		311.60
Legal and other advice.....		176.60
Insurance .....		150.00
J. A. Bush, extra painting .....		89.30
W. F. Wagner, oiling front wall .....		30.00
		<u>\$67,856.34</u>
Total cost of Library building.....		\$67,856.34

The library was finally closed for removal on January 25, 1897, and the entire collection of 60,000 volumes was transferred a distance of three blocks and put in order in the new building, in six days by two men, seven high school boys and one team, at a total cost of \$221.91, or less than  $\frac{3}{8}$  of a cent per volume.

The building is on Monroe street, nearly opposite the post office, half way between Main and Hamilton streets. It was not placed on a corner lot for the reason that corner lots cost much more than inside lots, and a public edifice on a corner would require at least two architecturally finished fronts instead of one. This would have involved an additional cost in land and building of not less than \$20,000 which, in their circumstances, the committee felt bound to take into consideration.

But there was another weighty reason besides that of economy for choosing the site they did. Business men do not plan and locate their workshops and warehouses with a view to an imposing architectural effect on strangers visiting the city, but rather with the more practical object of best serving their purpose as workshops and warehouses. Now a library is pre-eminently, and more so than most public buildings, a warehouse and a workshop.

As a warehouse, its function is to store books conveniently and safely; as a workshop, it is a place for quiet reading and study; and for both purposes it requires above all things, protection from the noise and dust of street traffic. These objects are better secured on an inside lot than on a corner lot; and if, as in our case, ample space for light and air is provided on both sides of the building, it would seem that for Peoria at least no better choice of location could have been made.

The test of several months' use of the new building has now set the seal of approval on the work of the building committee. If we may believe what our fellow citizens say, and the many commendations we hear from strangers, and especially from other librarians, our city is very much to be envied in its new Public Library; but we who work here daily know better than anybody else how convenient it is and how wisely it was planned.

**SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY,  
JUNE 1, 1896, TO MAY 31, 1897.**

Rev. John McCarthy, Morton—	Steel engraving: Henry Clay ad-
Miscellaneous books, 16 v.	dressing the Senate.
Miss Mary Bartlett—	Mr. Thomas Cooper, Pekin—
Putnam's Magazine, 6 v.	Mexican idol.
Atlantic Monthly, 14 v.	Major Wells—
Century, 8 v.	Bust of Benjamin Franklin.
Harper's Magazine, 11 v.	Mr. J. S. Starr—
Miss Rebecca Lightner—	Bust of Col. Ingersoll.
British poets, 127 v.	Mr. Walter Wyatt—
Miscellaneous books, 41 v.	One Barometer-thermometer.
Miscellaneous magazines, 50 v.	Mr. J. H. Roth—
Transcript Co.—	Large photograph of the Coli-
Peoria National Democrat, 44 v.	seum.
Peoria Transcript, 88 v.	Mr. Henry P. Wilber—
Miscellaneous newspapers, 39 v.	One large wall map of the U. S.
Mr. E. P. Sloan—	The Peoria Journal Co.—
Democratic Press, 7 v.	Publishing our bi-monthly lists of
Temperance Advocate, 2 v.	new books.

The number of assistants in the library and bindery remains the same as one year ago. Two of our number, Miss Grant and Mr. Werschultz, resigned during the year to assume other duties, carrying with them the best wishes of all who were acquainted with their faithful service here for seven and nine years respectively. Their places were filled by high school graduates who had given us occasional help before.

To the members of the library staff, the thanks of the librarian are due for cordial coöperation, faithful performance of their duties, and prompt and courteous service of our public.

Respectfully submitted,

E. S. WILLCOX, *Librarian.*

# Opening Exercises

## OF THE

# New Library Building,

FEBRUARY 11, 1897.

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Thursday afternoon, February 11, 1897, Peoria's imposing and handsome new library building was thrown open to the public, and between the hours of two and five it was visited and admired by throngs of people, and the pictures exhibited by the Peoria Art League in their gallery were inspected.

In the evening the dedication exercises took place, and the chairs placed on the main floor and around the gallery were all occupied and many people stood.

Philip Zell, acting President of the Mercantile Library Board, presided, and on the platform with him sat Dr. A. E. Draper, President of the University of Illinois; Robert C. Grier, President of the Free Public Library Board, and Mayor Allen. Members of the boards and of the City Council and speakers of the occasion sat near by.

Mr. Zell said: "It is a pleasing duty to call this meeting to order upon the occasion of the opening and delivery to the public of a building for a public library, for the school board, for a depository of objects of natural history, art and science, for the education, culture and refinement of the people. The seed planted forty-one years ago has grown into a stately tree. I hope it will continue to grow, blossom and bear good fruit."

### HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

E. S. Willcox, the Public Librarian, then delivered an historical address, as follows:

At the end of a long day's march it is but natural that we should gather round the evening camp-fire, and, while we rest and catch breath for another day's journey, talk over the obstacles we encountered, the battles we fought, and shed a tear in memory of comrades fallen by the way.

The Peoria Public Library traces its genealogy back forty-one years, to the autumn of 1855, when two rival libraries were started here—the Mercantile

Library on October 22d, and the Peoria Library two weeks later, on November 8th. The Rev. J. R. McFarland was the moving spirit of the first, and the Rev. J. W. Cracraft, of the second, as I am informed.

Prominent in the organization of this first Mercantile Library were B. L. T. Bourland, Onslow Peters, A. P. Bartlett, A. J. Hodges, D. M. Cummings, G. F. Harding, C. C. Bonney, Dr. J. D. Arnold, Isaac Underhill, Timothy Lynch, Philo Holland, G. W. Fridley and E. B. Elwood; and in the Peoria Library, A. G. Tyng, Geo. T. Metcalf, A. G. Curtenius, E. N. Powell, H. B. Hopkins, Geo. C. Bestor, N. B. Curtiss, Jacob Gale, Dr. R. Rouse, Dr. J. C. Frye, Wellington Loucks and J. P. Hotchkiss; the two libraries embracing thus in their organization nearly all the leading men of the city at the time.

One naturally inquires, why two separate libraries were started here at the same time. It was a question, I am told, between the so-called liberals and the orthodox, incited by the evil one himself, we might suppose, but mark how

"There's a divinity that shapes our ends,  
Rough-hew them how we will."

I doubt if the most cunning ingenuity could have contrived a more effective plan for starting a library in a small town, as Peoria then was, than by fanning just such a hot rivalry between opposing theological forces. The whole town was stirred from end to end; everybody took sides and joined in; everybody brought books or money to his favorite library; and, as a consequence, when, a year later, the two libraries were very sensibly consolidated under the name of the Peoria City Library, they had as choice a collection of some 1,500 volumes as probably any young library ever had in a city of our then size. And the gratifying thing about it all is, that since the day when the two libraries were brought together under one roof, there has never been any trouble; not an unkind word has passed between John Calvin and Joseph Priestley, disciple of Servetus; not a sour look between Jonathan Edwards and William Ellery Channing, although they have stood there on our shelves, elbow to elbow, for upwards of forty years.

Of these early founders of our Library, B. L. T. Bourland, A. G. Tyng, Jacob Gale and A. J. Hodges are still living here; Geo. F. Harding and C. C. Bonney are in Chicago, and Timothy Lynch is, or lately was, in San Francisco.

When I first became a director in the City Library, in January, 1865, the initiation fee was, if I remember rightly, \$2.00, the annual dues were \$2.00, and the membership considerably less than 200. It was a good, well-selected library for the time and place. I think I enjoyed access to those few, choice books, some 2,000 then, as much as I do our 60,000 now; for you cannot very well master more than 2,000 standard books in ten years.

In the spring of 1865 a new board of younger men seized the reins, and a new impetus was given to the library by incorporating it as the Peoria Mercantile Library Association. The charter was obtained by our then member of the Legislature, Alex. McCoy, Esq., and the charter members were Tobias S. Bradley, John L. Griswold, Lewis Howell, D. C. Farrell, Matthew Griswold, Lorin Grant Pratt, H. G. Anderson, Asahel A. Stevens, John Boyd Smith and E. S. Willcox, four of whom are still living here.



Under this private charter the Mercantile Library Association has continued to work until now.

While the charter was on its passage through the Legislature, meetings were held and a subscription started to raise funds, and, largely through the personal solicitation of L. G. Pratt, Esq., ably seconded by the entire Board, the very handsome sum of \$13,262.50 was secured, with \$10,000 of which the John L. Griswold property, corner of Main Street and Jefferson Avenue, was bought.

It was a splendid showing for those days, thirty-two years ago. It laid the foundation for all the success which may attend our Public Library in the future. We were proud of what we accomplished in 1865, and the slender band of us who survive to witness this consummation in 1897 may be pardoned, I hope, if we are proud of it still.

Following is a complete list of the original subscribers—a list which deserves to be held in grateful remembrance as long as this building stands; for it was their money, carefully administered for thirty-two years, that built it:

#### One Thousand Dollars.

Tobias S. Bradley.

#### Five Hundred Dollars.

Lewis Howell,

D. C. Farrell,

John L. Griswold.

#### Three Hundred Dollars.

Charles P. King.

#### Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars.

Horatio N. Wheeler,  
L. G. Pratt,  
Matthew Griswold,

Jacob Littleton,  
Tyng & Brotherson,  
Adler, Nusbaum & Higbie.

Thos. S. Dobbins,  
Sidney Pulsifer,

#### Two Hundred Dollars.

W. A. Willard & Co.,  
T. C. Moore,  
E. H. Jack,  
George Field & Co.,  
Washington Cockle,

Richard S. Cox,  
H. G. Anderson,  
Robinson & Co.,  
Philip Zell,  
Ingersoll & Puterbaugh.

A. P. & P. C. Bartlett,  
Day Bros.,  
E. F. Nowland, Jr.,  
C. S. Clark,

#### One Hundred Dollars.

W. H. Chapman,  
Jacob Gale,  
T. J. Darby,  
John C. Proctor,  
S. H. Thompson,  
John C. Mahler,  
C. W. Parks,  
G. N. Walker & Co.,  
Samuel Voris & Co.,  
Andrew Young,

Roswell Bills,  
John Hamlin,  
E. D. Hardin,  
John B. Smith,  
Robert Strehlow,  
Isaac Underhill,  
G. H. McIlvaine,  
Louis Greene,  
W. Carroll,  
M. Henebery,  
Nelson Burnham,

McCoy & Straut,  
R. D. McClure & Co.,  
A. Allison,  
Chas. Fisher,  
H. C. Cleland,  
J. E. McClure & Co.  
(the "Co." R. C. Grier),  
N. B. Curtiss,  
Moses Pettengill,  
Martin & Eastman.

**Fifty Dollars.**

Bishop & Co.,	B. L. T. Bourland,	I. W. Johnson,
Alexander McCoy,	J. K. Cooper & Moss,	M. A. Breed,
H. I. Chase,	Z. N. Hotchkiss,	Hall, Burr & Co.,
Robert A. Smith,	Charles Raymond,	Isaac Brown,
J. A. Troup,	Joseph Huber,	J. Murray Blakely,
John Babcock,	John H. Francis,	Willis Y. Francis,
Isaac Moore,	V. Dewein,	J. H. Thompson,
Charles Ulricson,	Thomas Neil,	H. W. Reynolds.

**Twenty-five Dollars.**

A. L. Matthies,	Wm. Miller,	C. W. McClallen,
Henry Nolte,	Wm. H. Davis,	Wm. W. Dunn,
J. P. Bean,	H. Sandmeyer,	Chambers & Rupert,
D. H. Tripp,	Camblin & Taylor,	R. A. Culter,
Chas. A. Taylor,	Newman & Ullman,	H. S. Hill,
F. J. Comstock, *	Wm. D. Voigt,	Chas. Seabury,
N. K. Beasley,	Geo. W. H. Gilbert,	J. S. Starr,
J. & D. C. McFadden,	N. S. Tucker,	Jobst & Smith,
William Truesdale,	John Milehan,	Joseph Miller,
C. W. Rees,	P. W. Dunne,	Geo. E. Ford,
Henry Grove,	A. Frank,	J. S. French,
M. P. Stone,	G. H. Kettelle,	H. P. Wilber,
D. J. Calligan,	Wm. Rutherford,	Charles Ballance,
W. B. Lyon,	P. Bender,	H. M. Mead,
R. M. Pinkney,	Thomas Cratty,	John Durham,
C. C. Dewitt,	Chas. Holland,	R. E. Hickey,
Peterson & Wood,	C. P. Taggart,	J. H. Morse,
W. C. Strickler,	Wm. W. O'Brien,	John F. Kuhn,
David McCulloch,	H. W. Wells,	H. E. Howe.
	G. W. Sutton,	

**Twelve Dollars and Fifty Cents.**

Barney, on B. & H. subscription.

Since we have among our citizens no rich capitalist or railroad king to bestow on our city an imposing marble monument for a library, as they do in the Eastern States, we are, at least, permitted to take a quiet satisfaction in remembering that Peoria owes her new library building originally to 140 different individuals and firms from her own hard-working and public-spirited professional and business men, contributing in comparatively small sums, according to their several means. She does not owe it to any one millionaire, eager to seize so rare an opportunity for perpetuating his family name.

There is no name carved over our door but the one name which belongs to us all — Peoria.

The Mercantile Library consisted at first of two departments, a Merchants' Exchange Department and a Library Department, with separate Boards of Directors, which, together, constituted the General Board; but the Exchange Department gradually lapsed, and the Library Department became its residuary legatee, so to speak.

In the thirty-two years of its existence, the Mercantile Library Association has had but four Presidents — Tobias S. Bradley, 1865-1867; Washington Cockle, 1868-1882; John Boyd Smith, 1882-1886; and Geo. H. McIlvaine, 1886-1897.

Of the active members of the Exchange Department from the first, two gentlemen, both large subscribers to the original fund, have remained, with scarcely a break, in the Directory of the Association until now — Mr. Geo. H. McIlvaine, President of the Mercantile Library, and Mr. R. C. Grier, President of the Public Library.

The recent death of Mr. McIlvaine, but little more than a month ago, is so fresh in our memories that it is hard to think that he who had taken so active a part in all our deliberations for so many years, and watched with such interest the erection of this edifice, is not still one of us on this auspicious occasion.

Of the active members of the Library Department, and in continuous service until now, I am the sole survivor. Our honored friend and fellow-worker, Mr. Matthew Griswold, who died in January a year ago, would have had eight years of longer continuous service to show than any of us if he had survived until now.

After the purchase of the Griswold property our library had its rooms free of rent, but received very little help from rents of offices in the building, which went toward paying for the new building erected in 1868. For an income it was still dependent on the meager sums derived from membership dues and miscellaneous entertainments. Our friends, David McKinney, Eliot Callender, J. C. Hansel, John S. Stevens, John Birks, Dr. I. W. Johnson and E. W. Coy, now of Cincinnati, will not soon forget the hard work we did, running lecture courses, concerts, spelling bees, "Drummer Boy of Shiloh," etc., in order to eke out our small income of four dollars apiece from about 250 subscribers in the days when that estimable lady, Mrs. S. B. Armstrong, constituted our entire library staff. It is enough to say, that it was our experience here in this Peoria Library, of the utter inadequacy of a subscription library to provide for the literary wants of the people, that first suggested the idea, until then unheard of in this country, of supporting public libraries like public schools, by public taxation, and which resulted in placing on the statute book of our State in 1872, our present free library law — the first law of the kind in any State of our Union. Under this law, in 1880, Col. John Warner, then mayor of our city, started our present Public Library by nominating the first board of directors, thus becoming, as he says, and need not be ashamed of saying, the Daddy of our Public Library. The first president of the Public Library was Mr. John S. Lee. Of this first board, Mr. Bernard Cremer and Mr. Henry Ullman have served continuously until the present time.

The first Librarian of our Public Library was Mr. Fred J. Soldan, and a better choice could not have been made. He began without a book on his

shelves, in a bare room over a store on Adams street. He planned and brought into good running order all the multifarious details so necessary to the smooth working of the modern Public Library, and, at his untimely death in 1891, left a well selected and well organized library of 40,000 volumes and a well trained corps of assistants.

April 19, 1881, the German Library gave its fine collection of 1,900 volumes to the Public Library, and in the spring of 1882 the Mercantile Library Association turned over as a gift to the Public Library its entire collection of some 12,000 volumes, and leased its rooms to the same for a term of years.

Early in 1894 the overcrowded condition of the library had become so pressingly noticeable that an agitation was begun to purchase another site and erect a new building exclusively for library purposes. The conditions were favorable. The Mercantile Library Association owned valuable property which, with the growth of the city and by careful management, had risen in value from \$10,000 to \$75,000, less a debt of \$11,000 to \$12,000, which yet remained to be extinguished, and the Public Library owned 50,000 books. There was no good reason why the two should not now unite in the common object of giving Peoria a great library to be proud of, provided some method could be devised for effecting the union satisfactorily to all parties.

A proposition to this effect was made by the directors of the Mercantile Library to the City Council, and was met with immediate and hearty approval by Mayor Miles and the entire Council.

This proposition was, that if the city would buy the lots, the Mercantile Library Association would sell its property, corner of Main and Jefferson streets, and devote the proceeds to the erecting of a building.

In June, 1894, the directors of the Public Library, supported by the action of the City Council, purchased for \$16,000, three lots on Monroe street, nearly opposite the Government building, 108 feet front by 171 feet deep, and December 24, 1894, the directors of the Mercantile Library sold their property, corner of Main and Jefferson streets, and on July 10, 1895, the contract for the erection of the new library building was let. The work of excavating for the foundation walls began the following morning, July 11, 1895.

The planning and constructing of this building has been done under the direction of six gentlemen—J. D. McClure, Philip Zell and E. S. Willcox, from the Mercantile Library board, and R. C. Grier, Thos. M. McIlvaine and Chas. R. Vandervort, from the Public Library board. I believe they have done the best they could under actual conditions. They have none of them had their own way in everything, perhaps, but they have all had their way in most things.

The architects were Messrs. Richardson & Salter, of this city, and the contractor, Mr. James Deal, also of Peoria; and, thanks to the careful attention of the building committee, and the fair and square dealing of the architects and contractor, I do not hesitate to say, that there has not been a dollar wasted or misspent in the construction of the building—there was never an honest job of work done in Peoria. If defects, errors and omissions are found by our successors here, all I have to say is, let those find fault who have, themselves, built a better library with less money. We have, at least, this

satisfaction, that on the great ledger of our city treasury there will be found no item reading: "Bonded indebtedness for the Public Library." The building will be given to the city free of debt, and not one dollar of taxation went into its construction.

I have said nothing about our building as it now stands finished, leaving that to others, or, better still, to the building itself; but as to the cost, while our final accounts have not yet been made up, owing to the illness of the contractor, I may safely say, it will not exceed \$70,000, including the mural decorations, which were not in the original estimates.

And, concerning these decorations—the pride and glory of our interior, designed and executed by the artists, Messrs. Peyraud and Maratta—I am persuaded that the other members of our committee will cheerfully agree with me in acknowledging that we owe them to the foresight and good taste of Dr. McIlvaine more than to any other one of our number.

The building is 78 feet front, 135 feet deep, three stories high, the stack-room five stories, and as it now is, will accommodate some 70,000 volumes; when more book-cases are added in the stack-room it will accommodate nearly 200,000.

Here, now, we can offer to the friends of our library, a secure treasure-house for their gifts and bequests in the way of endowments, books, pamphlets, autographs, curiosities and works of art—all those rare and valuable things which, sooner or later, find their resting place in a great library, among the cherished possessions of a proud and prosperous city; and we solicit them. Every loyal son and daughter of Peoria, returning from distant lands, should bring a votive offering here.

For, with the Board of Education directing the educational interests of our city from its home under this roof, with the valuable natural history museum of the scientific association taking on new vigor under our shelter here, and the Peoria Art League occupying and adorning rooms in our third story—all these beneficent institutions allied to our great library should make this building, henceforth, the radiating sun and center of all good influences for our city.

The present members of the board of the Mercantile Library Association are: John Birks, R. A. Culter, R. C. Grier, J. D. McClure, Henry B. Rouse, E. S. Willcox and Philip Zell. Two of our number, Matthew Griswold and Geo. H. McIlvaine, have fallen by the way since this building was begun.

And now, with the completion of this edifice, the Peoria Mercantile Library Association brings to an end its labors and responsibilities of thirty-two years. It turns over to the board of directors of the Peoria Public Library, the trust it has long and faithfully guarded, in the sure confidence that that board and its successors here, encouraged and supported by the people of Peoria and its City Council, will never, to the latest generation, betray the trust now confided to them.

### KEY DELIVERED

By Mr. Philip Zell, President of the Mercantile Library Association.

Mr. Zell then presented the key of the building attached to a sealed parchment reading as follows:

*To President R. C. Grier and the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library:*

"Representing the Peoria Mercantile Library Association as its president, by its direction I hereby transfer and assign to you the trust heretofore administered by us and now invested in this Peoria Public Library building and its contents, with the hope that its use and purpose be continued through you and your successors in office to the end of time."

Mr. Zell then addressed Mayor Allen as follows: "And Mr. Mayor of the city of Peoria, I turn over any and all assets remaining in the hands of our board, derived from the Mercantile Library property, to you, and ask that you, on behalf of the City of Peoria, accept the building for the purposes set forth, and all of said assets in full discharge of the Mercantile Library Association, with the hope that the library may be so enlarged and administered as to prove even a greater public benefit than it has been in the past."

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### REPLY OF MR. ROBERT C. GRIER,

President of the Public Library.

Mr. President: In officially receiving these evidences of transfer and possession—representing as you do to-day the culmination of a most interesting and important feature of library history in Peoria, I congratulate you and your associates. The termination of the trust you were charged with must be a relief, for the end of responsibility is always in mind, with the hope that when that hour is at hand the verdict may be "well done." The consenting voice in this instance is the opinion of your fellow citizens and your justification. Benefits from prudent and successful business management was your desire.

Having been for a number of years and until this present moment one of your number, I know the anxiety and burden of care we shared. We were in commission and on duty prior to the advanced views and intelligent statute provisions of the present time in regard to the formation and support of public libraries. Your charter was definite and no deviation possible. You were intrusted with the maintenance and enlargement of library facilities. You could not establish a free library, as you had no sure support. Your scope, therefore, was limited and possible advantages curtailed—still you persevered.

The event of 1880, the establishing of a public library under the law then lately enacted, opened the way which before had seemed hedged in, for wider and more enduring effort. You soon discovered your successor had been born, "The Public Library of Peoria." Your trust was somewhat in the nature of an entailment. Only library purposes and development could receive benefits. The time and method of endowing the acknowledged heir was for your good judgment to determine. I mention as necessary to this decision in your minds, certainty that the Public Library had the hearts of our citizens—that its benefits were appreciated—the burden of support by public funds cheerfully borne—its establishment in no danger of discontinuance. You decided the hour had arrived. This evening we celebrate the fruition of our endeavors, and I am confident the great body of our fellow citizens are ready to join in the acclaim—long live the Peoria Public Library.

Mr. Mayor and members of the City Council: I congratulate you, also. The Public Library of Peoria is the creature of your predecessors. The administration of 1880 founded it under authority of statutes provided for that purpose. Succeeding mayors and councils have cherished and warmed it to active life and large influence. I do not recall any difference of opinion or opposition to generous aid from our civic authorities, and to you, Mr. Mayor and Councilmen, we, your representatives by appointment, in charge, desire to acknowledge your kind thoughts and honest endeavors.

My associates, directors in control of this property: We are the beneficiaries of this well managed and just now expiring trust. The gift is large and valuable; but for this occasion it is not probable that the near future would have provided a library home at all suited to our needs. Municipal obligations in other directions would have prevented. To-day we enter this ample and conveniently arranged structure. The foundations are deep, walls strong; all appointments are for economical and speedy service; and the Public Library of Peoria is domiciled most satisfactorily.

Under this roof will also be located the administrative authority of the public schools of Peoria. It is most appropriate. Public schools and public libraries are the two educational factors supported by public funds. The first is made compulsory—the establishment of public libraries is permitted and encouraged. The classification is natural. The school house is the leader, the library a companion. When in the one case duty ends with a prescribed course, the other continues and affords still further opportunities for self education and culture. The school teacher for childhood and youth, books on library shelves for youth and maturer years.

Still more comprehensive, we have the ability to provide quarters for the study of art as represented by the Art League; also room for the exhibition of specimens collected by the Scientific Society.

As directors, our duties have not changed. I think, however, these new surroundings should be an incentive. Increased devotion to the interests we serve may be expected. We have been provided an outfit that should satisfy every desire. We are supplied with conveniences that demand good results. We must increase the usefulness of this library. Every citizen is our constituent and we must encourage to the use and practical reception of the good

we offer. We are charged with the business management. Many projects are elaborately wrought out in the ideal, but unless supported by that necessary auxiliary, a wise, prudent and safe business administration, their benefactions will scarcely extend beyond the hope that attends the first enthusiasm. Hope is a good thing; the benefaction must not die with the resolution; it requires proper administration, and this duty is ours, is expected and required.

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### MAYOR ALLEN

#### Accepts the Building in Behalf of the City.

Mayor Allen followed, saying:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: This is certainly one of the most pleasant duties I have been called upon to perform during my term of office. As a citizen of Peoria, I have watched its rapid and substantial growth with pleasure and admiration. I realize its importance in the commercial world. I have seen it grow from a small city, until it stands to-day the second city in population in our great State, and is numbered among the great commercial and manufacturing centers of the West.

While it has shown such marked advancement in all material things, it has not neglected the higher interests of its citizens. How its educational facilities have kept pace with its growth is shown by the handsome public school buildings which now, in that respect, place it in advance of most cities of its size in this country.

This beautiful building which we dedicate to-day not only shows the progressive spirit of our people, but also that this progress is made along the right lines. It is a building of which every citizen of our city may be rightfully proud. Beneath its roof may be found the writings of the best and greatest minds of all time.

Here at this fountain of knowledge every man, woman and child, without regard to race, color or creed—whether they be high or low, rich or poor—may drink and be refreshed in mind and heart, without money and without price, without question and without fear.

On behalf and in the name of the city of Peoria, I accept, with pleasure and with pride, this splendid institution, which you, as the representatives of its founders, have committed to our fostering care.

This noble building, with its wealth of literature and art, the city receives with a glad and reverent heart as one of its choicest treasures. She will cherish it with kindly liberality, and guard it as a sacred trust.



## PRESIDENT DRAPER.

## Address by the Chief Executive of the University of Illinois.

Dr. A. S. Draper, president of the University of Illinois, was introduced and he delivered an address. He said:

Mr. President, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen: This is not only an interesting but a historical occasion. The friends of popular education, all interested in the well being of the common brotherhood, have looked through years and months to the consummation reached to-night. If they have looked forward to this with anticipation, I know they will look back to this night with fond remembrance. The transfer of this library, a new educational instrument in this thrifty city, will make a red letter day. It is generous, too, that they invite a stranger to participate on this auspicious occasion, and it is a pleasure to join in the ceremonies.

I like these meeting grounds. I am in love with these occasions where all interests are a common weal, where we can stand on a common level and touch elbows man to man. We are so divided into parties, denominations, sects and clans that it is a relief to find a ground on which we can feel that we have a right, and feel equally at home and upon which we feel free to give utterance to things that go to the advancement of the common interests. It is not a great many years ago when occasions of this kind were impossible. A hundred years ago if my friend Bishop Spalding and I had been alive, he would have looked at me as though I were a pagan, and my grandmother would have pinched his ears, the good, amiable old woman that she was. It is an evidence of the growth of our American institutions, our unique school and educational system, the traditions of this fair land where all can come together and strike hands in a common movement for the advancement of the great brotherhood.

There has been a gradual advancement in library development within recent years. There is a marked enlargement of interest in this particular instance, popular education. The Lenox, Tilden and Astor foundations in New York, the great libraries of Chicago and Boston, all mark a new advancement in the public library history of the United States. Probably to no one is so much credit due as to this community in the reorganization of the two libraries, the construction and now opening of this library home. In consideration of the population and the fact of the library being formed by popular subscription, it is fair to say that more credit comes to this community than to Chicago, New York and Boston, to which I have adverted. The more public stock taken in a library, the better the people will like it and the more they will use its contents. It is a great public event when they provide a free home for the free Public Library. The adjectives mean much for they mean that this instrument of education is to reach all homes regardless of class or clan or the plane of home.

Libraries are the laboratory of the educational progress. It is the instrument of every intellectual citizen, every son and daughter who aspires to

become intellectual. It must be made the instrument to stimulate the higher life. There are many things to consider, the channel in which this library is to be extended, the way it is to be made effective, the way it is to help the schools, the teaching force, and to stimulate the child life in the city. I am sure that if this does not appeal to the children there will be a mistake in the policy of the library board and I know it will not be committed. Future development of the city depends upon the children and if this is to be so the library must be effective and an instrument for their betterment and development.

Here art interests are to be developed. I see on these walls evidences of this. The Free Public Library should be an art educator, an instrument to cultivate art taste. It should be the repository of historical specimens and data. It was well that a view of Marquette coming up the river and Tonti and La Salle going down the river, was painted on these walls. These pictures will stimulate the coming generations in the history of their country. While in the Galena Public Library recently I saw that famous picture by Nast of Lee surrendering to Grant at Appomattox. It was appropriate that it should be on the walls of the library at Galena, and really it is appropriate that it should be on the walls of any public library in Illinois, or in any free library in America, this picture which tells us the story of when all the American people came to have a common interest in the life of these great men. It is just as appropriate that pictures of the early history of a community be placed on these walls. I have lived in an older community than this, and I suggest to you that every effort be put forth to collecting data of a historical nature.

A public library must be adapted to its constituency. It is idle to build it up without making it for the help and advancement of the people. It is said that 15,000 volumes were adequate for a population of 20,000. It is a common mistake to add indefinitely to a library. There is one way to make a good library—be careful of what you put in and be energetic to put out. Rubbish in it detracts from its usefulness, and to keep it clean makes it more and more valuable. It is confusion to the professional mind or the child mind to find a great mass of material that no one can use. It is gain when it is so trimmed of those books, not necessarily vicious, but those that have no particular use.

There is no branch in popular education in which there has been such an advance as in library administration. I can remember when the chief object of the library people was to keep it from being used.

I have gone into the New York library and have looked at the librarian with awe. There were iron gates and padlocks, no one was permitted to go to the sacred precincts where reposed the books but the librarian, and it was exceedingly distasteful to him to accommodate you. The whole system has changed. It was to save the book then, now it is to have the book used up by the children. This city can afford to pay for good books used up by the children. The main thought of library administration now is, a bringing out for the people's use. Books are so catalogued that every volume, chapter and page can be had immediately when wanted. Old feelings have passed away.

It is a difficult problem to administer a public library. There are two things, silence and freedom. Silence is required, so there shall be opportunity

to read and study, and then there should be a freedom for the visitor as well. Both are to be secured and this must be through the librarian, whose mind should be enriched by acquaintance with literature, and who should be interested in lifting up the world. It is difficult to embody everything in a librarian. In recent years there has been much study of the question and schools for librarians have been opened, where they can acquaint themselves with books and the methods of conducting a library. We must look for an unusual man in a librarian. We want an arch-angel in this position, but I suggest that one who is an ideal librarian will find St. Peter ready and willing to open the pearly gates for him and will not put to him any troublesome questions.

The library must exert an influence in this State. The State can afford to make money contributions to every township of the State to encourage public libraries. The State ought to do this. Illinois is a great stamping ground between the East and the West, and in the next twenty-five years the people will make great intellectual advancement. Peoria should be the center of a great intellectual life. This building is the heart of this life, and may it be a power to the betterment of the children, to the homes of the community, and to energizing the life of the great imperial State of the West.

### BISHOP SPALDING.

#### Address by the Head of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peoria.

Rt. Rev. John Lancaster Spalding, Roman Catholic Bishop of the diocese of Peoria, said: This is an important occasion, more important than most people realize. The things which tell on the natural progress of individuals and nations are not the things that strike us most at the moment. Nations and individuals become powerful through great wealth. But as centuries pass by the people do not attach much importance to wealth. Croesus is a vulgar name, Virgil an honored one. We must turn our thoughts to things that have a permanent value, to religion, morality and intelligence. Money is only an aid to these. There must be developed in us a higher sense of the infinite, and that morality and righteousness of life and thinking are the highest functions of man. To feast and look at grandeur is only animal. He is not a happy being who is not active in a good way. We are too feverish. We must do in a day or a year what has heretofore been done in centuries. The American people are morally active. While none have so general an idea of education, they are not as a rule active for education in a higher way.

This library will afford an opportunity to all to make themselves acquainted with the few minds of all ages and lands most worthy of being known, and of learning what has been said which is of the most value. I would test the value of a school by the ability of the scholars to continue their studies and reading afterwards. We read much. But what do we read? We read what pleases us. We follow our tastes. People to-day are largely reading the daily papers,

what is of momentary interest, what is happening in the world to-day. We are no wiser. In this way is created an indolent manner of reading.

One can so become the master of a book that he becomes the twin brother of the man who wrote it. In books we have real art. Poetry, eloquence, perfect style is art.

It is fashionable to under-estimate the value of books. They are a world. Every great passion that has inspired man to do noble deeds still throbs in some book. There is not a thought so high, so deep or so pure that it does not lie asleep in books.

Men do not care to make the most of this life. They are satisfied in living on a low plane here. Why not emancipate themselves? Truth is the liberating power, and it may be found in books. It would be a good thing if in the schools and libraries lectures should be delivered occasionally on books and the science of reading. He who lives in books lives in all ages and times, and sympathizes with all men.

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#### N. C. DOUGHERTY.

##### Remarks by the Superintendent of Peoria City Schools.

Superintendent N. C. Dougherty said: It was my good fortune the past summer to spend a few weeks in Boston, the Athens of America. The finest thing in that city is the new magnificent public library building, and the finest thing about it is the inscription in marble under the cornice, "The Commonwealth Demands the Education of the People as the Safeguard of Her Liberty and of Her Honor." Everything paled in comparison with that sentiment. So the commonwealth of Illinois demands the education of her people as the safeguard of her liberty and of her honor. Peoria opens this magnificent building as an evidence of what she believes to be her true and strongest power. These public institutions are for the preservation of our honor, and the safeguard of our liberty.

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#### REV. CASPAR WISTAR HIATT.

##### Address by the Pastor of the First Congregational Church.

A short address was delivered by the Rev. Caspar Wistar Hiatt, pastor of the First Congregational Church. All the people of the city, he remarked, can say that they have a proprietary interest in these alcoves and galleries, and it affords an opportunity for the people to rise to manhood, and not to retrograde to the condition of the naked ones whom Marquette found here. It is

a magnificent charity. He was proud that no individual's name is upon it. All can partake of its blessings without a sense of ignominy. They are better than bread, garment or shelter. They open the doors to the society of the great, the good and the beautiful. They furnish viands that never clog the appetite, and garments most beautiful. What is better than silver and gold? To gain strength by which one may run and leap. The privileges of education have been wrenched away from the few. This library will be a citadel of our prosperity. It will be a liberal education.

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**REV. J. H. MORRON.**

**Pays Tribute to those Who Have departed.**

The exercises closed with a short address by the Rev. J. H. Morron. He paid a tribute to those connected with the library who have departed this life—Matthew Griswold, F. J. Soldan and Miss Rose Reynolds.

## STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1896-97.

## RECEIPTS.

From city appropriation .....	\$18,783.49
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1896 .....	41.55
Fines .....	431.99
Books damaged and paid for .....	.85
Books lost and paid for .....	30.50
Extra books loaned .....	6.30
Duplicate cards issued .....	2.35
Memberships .....	6.00
Duplicate books sold .....	3.00
Catalogues sold .....	12.20
Furniture sold .....	39.20
	<hr/> \$19,357.43

## EXPENDITURES.

Books .....	\$1,619.90
Periodicals .....	730.30
Stationery .....	311.96
Salaries .....	5,649.08
Janitor service .....	701.45
Binding (labor) .....	1,706.17
Binding (materials) .....	168.71
Binding (tools and machinery) .....	11.00
Rent .....	568.00
Fuel .....	285.05
Light .....	416.35
Insurance, for three years .....	601.46
Supplies .....	42.70
Expense .....	387.77
Real estate .....	7.03
New library building .....	700.75
Mural decorations .....	2,035.58
Furniture and fixtures .....	2,520.74
Improvement—paving alley, sidewalk, fence, etc .....	641.67
Removal .....	221.91
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1897 .....	29.85
	<hr/> \$19,357.43

## MEMBERSHIPS.

Memberships in force June 1, 1896 .....	5,822
Memberships issued during the year .....	3,227
Total .....	<hr/> 9,049
Memberships expired during the year .....	2,932
Memberships in force May 31, 1897 .....	<hr/> 6,117

## CONTENTS OF LIBRARY.

June 1st, 1896—

Books in circulation . . . . .	55,593 vols.	
Duplicates not in use . . . . .		1,966 vols.
Unbound pamphlets (estimated) . . . . .		2,738 "

Losses—

Lost and paid for .....	27 vols.
Worn out and withdrawn .....	461 "

Total losses.....	488 vols.
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55,105 vols.

## Additions

By purchase .....	1,854 vols.
By donation .....	626 "
By periodicals bound .....	520 "

Total additions ..... 3,000 vols.

**Total books in circulation . . . . . 58,105 vols.**

Duplicates not in use .....	2,108 vols.	
Pamphlets.....	2,965 "	
	<hr/>	5,073 vols.

Total contents May 31, 1897 .....	63,178 vols.
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Number of periodicals taken and always accessible in the reading-room—

Dailies .....	12
Weeklies .....	52
Bi-weeklies .....	10
Monthlies .....	150
Bi-monthlies .....	9
Quarterlies .....	34

Duplicates in circulation ..... 29

Total .....	296
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## NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED.

## PER CENT.

Philosophy .....	1,071	.77
Theology .....	1,312	.95
Social and political science .....	2,202	1.59
Natural science and useful arts.....	6,372	4.60
Fine arts, poetry and music .....	3,843	2.78
Fiction .....	64,377	46.49
Juvenile Fiction.....	33,690	24.33
Literary miscellany .....	4,683	3.38
History and travel .....	15,139	10.94
Cyclopædias and periodicals .....	5,775	4.17

Total .....	138,464	100.00
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Of the above were taken for home use .....	133,939
“ “ issued in the library .....	4,525

Total .....	138,464
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Highest issue on any week day during 1896-7	.....Feb. 27th, 1897,	1,172 vols
Lowest " " " " " "	.....June 6th, 1896,	218 "

## DELINQUENTS.

Books kept overtime during the year.....	10,631
Number of fine notices sent.....	1,230
"      notices to guarantors.....	30
"      "      for books reserved.....	389

## SCHOOL ISSUE.

	Douglas.	Sumner.	Garfield.	Total.
Literature .....	70	70	12	82
Science, art, religion .....	266	325	724	1,315
History, biography, travel .....	568	805	1,536	2,909
Fiction, fairy tales, legends .....	534	573	1,369	2,476
Total .....	1,368	1,773	3,641	6,782

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class June 1, 1896, the losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents of the library May 31, 1897:

	Total vols. in Library May 31, 1896.	Lost and paid for.	Worn out and withdrawn.	Balance.	No. volumes added 1896-7.	Total vols. in Library May 31, 1897.	
						No.	Per cent.
Philosophy .....	834	...	...	834	36	870	1.50
Theology .....	2,214	...	...	2,214	77	2,291	3.94
Social and political sciences .....	7,417	1	2	7,414	368	7,782	13.39
Natural sciences and useful arts....	6,432	3	4	6,425	277	6,702	11.53
Fine arts and poetry .....	3,390	1	...	3,389	258	3,647	6.28
Vocal and instrumental music....	254	...	...	254	33	287	.49
Fiction .....	8,586	8	265	8,313	657	8,970	15.44
Juvenile literature .....	5,161	10	170	4,981	457	5,438	9.36
Literary miscellany.....	4,388	2	15	4,371	125	4,496	7.74
History and travel .....	10,859	2	3	10,854	225	11,079	19.07
Cyclopædias and periodicals .....	6,058	...	2	6,056	487	6,543	11.26
Total.....	55,593	27	461	55,105	3,000	58,105	100.00

## CHARACTER OF ADDITIONS.

English .....	2,890
German .....	74
French .....	2
Latin .....	1
Vocal and instrumental music.....	33

Total..... 3,000

Purchased .....	1,854
Donation .....	626
Periodicals bound.....	520

Total..... 3,000



VOLUMES ISSUED FROM EACH CLASS, 1880-1887.

	1881	1881-82	1882-83	1883-84	1884-85	1885-86	1886-87	1887-88	1888-89	1889-90	1890-91	1891-92	1892-93	1893-94	1894-95	1895-96	1896-97
Philosophy .....	40	180	222	251	328	416	414	220	324	320	594	681	828	749	894	1,213	1,071
Theology .....	71	266	338	528	572	614	531	466	664	763	990	968	953	1,302	1,174	1,896	1,312
Natural science, useful arts	88	308	436	642	698	753	872	577	677	870	1,278	1,375	1,364	1,853	1,867	1,742	2,202
Natural science, useful arts	427	1,647	1,602	2,001	2,338	2,540	2,641	1,775	2,191	3,231	4,408	3,709	4,420	3,381	3,786	6,774	6,372
Fine arts, poetry and music	263	1,077	1,403	1,581	1,262	1,411	1,314	1,015	1,407	1,933	2,427	2,643	3,306	3,599	3,944	3,772	3,813
Fiction .....	4,580	27,761	36,582	43,702	39,955	38,955	35,376	35,076	38,696	39,958	39,958	22,931	22,464	33,312	62,394	61,366	64,377
Novels .....	3,727	14,506	19,687	25,562	23,692	24,941	21,257	16,443	28,036	26,419	22,464	22,931	22,464	30,150	32,421	34,366	33,690
Juvenile fiction .....	748	2,213	1,735	1,993	1,765	1,905	2,006	1,590	1,652	2,427	3,250	3,370	4,089	4,644	4,823	5,100	4,683
Literary miscellany .....	1,683	4,377	3,497	5,622	5,513	5,943	6,041	4,650	5,122	6,443	8,508	8,713	10,449	13,411	14,144	17,654	15,139
History and travel .....	301	1,568	2,439	2,706	2,218	2,241	2,617	2,168	2,293	2,469	2,632	3,208	4,412	3,229	3,636	6,042	5,775
Cyclopaedias and periodic s																	
Total .....	11,937	48,703	65,690	78,914	84,652	87,240	77,738	54,849	79,572	89,892	81,137	89,644	96,382	119,860	136,083	139,365	138,464

PERCENTAGE OF ISSUE OF EACH CLASS, 1880-1897.

[illegible]

## BINDERY.

Books bound .....	742
Newspapers bound .....	76
Books rebound .....	1,319
Books repaired .....	5,908
Portfolios .....	69
Total .....	8,114

## SIZES.

32°	24°	16°	12°	8°	4°	Folios	Total
3	55	353	733	747	137	109	2,137
Portfolios and books repaired, miscellaneous sizes .....							5,977
Total .....							8,114
Fiction lists bound in paper .....							50
Current periodicals covered .....							391

E. S. WILLCOX, *Librarian*.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }  
COUNTY OF PEORIA, } ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of June, A. D. 1897, by  
E. S. Willcox, Librarian.

LEWIS B. HOWE, *Notary Public*.

THE  
EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND THE  
Forty-first Annual Report since its Organization  
as the Peoria City Library

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PEORIA, ILLINOIS

For the Year Ending May 31, 1898.

**DIRECTORS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FROM ITS ORIGIN, APRIL, 1880.**

John S. Lee .....	1880 to 1889
James C. Dolan .....	1880 " 1894
Mathew Henebery .....	1880 " 1894
Bernard Cremer.....	1880 " date
Henry Ullman .....	1880 " date
Austin F. Johnson .....	1880 " 1884
J. M. Hutchinson .....	1880 " 1884
Chas. B. Allaire .....	1880 " 1883
Geo. B. Foster .....	1880 " 1886
James Millard .....	1884 " 1886
Matthew Griswold .....	1884 " 1886
Robert C. Grier .....	1884 " date
Henry W. Wells.....	1886 " date
Dan F. Raum .....	1886 " 1889
Thos. B. Burnett.....	1889 " 1890
Geo. B. Foster.....	1889 " 1892
Thos. M. McIlvaine.....	1890 " date
Edward Hine.....	1892 " 1895
Chas. R. Vandervort.....	1894 " date
Frank Meyer.....	1894 " 1897
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1895 " 1898
Mark W. Goss.....	1896 " 1897
Samuel D. Wead .....	1897 " date
James P. Nailon.....	1897 " date
N. E. Worthington .....	1898

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1898-99.

ROBERT C. GRIER, Board of Trade.....	Term expires 1899 -
HENRY ULLMAN, 120 South Washington Street.....	" " 1899 -
CHARLES R. VANDERVORT, 519 N. Jefferson Ave...	" " 1899 -
THOMAS M. McILVAINE, 516 Main Street.....	" " 1900 -
SAMUEL D. WEAD, 129 N. Jefferson Ave.....	" " 1900 -
JAMES P. NAILON, 310 Liberty Street .....	" " 1900 -
BERNARD CREMER, German-American National Bank,	" " 1901 -
HENRY W. WELLS, 325 Main Street .....	" " 1901 -
NICHOLAS E. WORTHINGTON, Circuit Court, C. H..	" " 1901

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## OFFICERS.

R. C. GRIER, . . . . .	PRESIDENT.
H. W. WELLS, . . . . .	VICE-PRESIDENT.
B. CREMER, . . . . .	SECRETARY.

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## STANDING COMMITTEES.

Finance and Auditing—Ullman, Cremer, Worthington.

Books—Wells, Vandervort, Wead.

Executive—Grier (*ex-officio*), McIlvaine, Nailon.

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## LIBRARY SERVICE.

*Librarian*—E. S. WILLCOX.

*Assistants:*

Emilie E. Brendel,	Elizabeth T. Ellis,	John M. Youngman,
Anna L. Archer,	Irene Stewart,	Charles Maclay Booth,
Harold H. Willcox,	Helen M. Ballard.*	

*In the Bindery:*

Richard J. Cross,	Ruth McKenzie,
Rachel Garrabrant,	Edith A. Quinn.

*Evening Attendant*—Samuel W. Dodge.

*Engineer*—John J. Steiger.

*Janitress*—Mrs. Mary E. Theena.

The Library is open for the delivery of books, except on Sundays and holidays, from 9 A. M. until 8 P. M.; on Saturdays until 9 P. M.

Reading Room open from 9 A. M. until 9 P. M.; on Sundays from 2 P. M. until 6 P. M.

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\*Occasional.

p2990

## Report of the Directors.

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*To the Hon. John Warner, Mayor, and to the Members of the City Council of Peoria :*

On behalf of the Directors, the Annual Report of the Public Library is hereby submitted, as required, for the year ending May 31st, 1898:

Your Directors are able to report a satisfactory present condition of the Library and its affairs. We conclude, however, the Library lacks somewhat the general appreciation of our citizens that is its due, and should be evidenced by a greater demand on its valuable resources. We would welcome a daily crowded reading-room, the enticements of which in the list of periodicals are unusual, suited to all kinds of readers, including professional and technical inquirers.

You will note by the Librarian's report herewith the success that is attending the efforts of circulation through the medium of the public schools in our city, and there will be an undoubted advance in this direction during the current year.

As your administrators, we feel the responsibility resting upon us in the care of this important trust. We are anxious to do anything and everything proper to advance the benefits to be derived by all the citizens from continuous use of the Library. We do not object to fair criticism, either public or private, as to our omissions or injudicious commissions in administering the affairs of the Public Library.

The Librarian's Annual Report to the Directors, on succeeding pages, is worthy of attention, and will be found instructive to all interested in this important educational feature.

Respectfully,

R. C. GRIER, *President.*

## Report of the Librarian.

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*To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library:*

GENTLEMEN:—I beg leave to present herewith my report for the year ending May 31, 1898, being the Eighteenth Annual Report of the Peoria Public Library and the Forty-first Annual Report of the same library since its origin as the Peoria City Library.

For detailed statistics I refer to the tabulated statements appended:

The number of volumes in the library and in circulation one year ago was 58,105. During the year have been added by purchase, gift, and periodicals bound, 3,850. Deducting 460 volumes lost and paid for, or worn out and withdrawn, leaves the number in the library and in circulation at the present time 61,495. This does not include 2,147 duplicates and 3,519 pamphlets.

The circulation for the year was 161,007, a gain over the preceding year of 22,543 volumes, or more than 16 per cent.

The largest increase of circulation in any one department of our work was in the public schools. From the carefully selected libraries deposited last September with four of the schools farthest from the center of town, and with two, the Blaine and Whittier, later in the year, the Garfield issued 7,226 volumes, the Sumner 3,305, the Douglas 1,492, the Whittier 1,173, the Blaine 1,116 and the Lee 717, a grand total of issues from the six schools of 15,029, as compared with 6,782 the year preceding. It should be stated that no books were issued in 1896-97 from the Lee, Blaine and Whittier schools.

The careful and discriminating selection of the reading of our young people is one of the most serious duties in public library administration, and that our public may be able to judge for themselves how we have done it there will be found in the Appendix, a complete list of the books from which our school libraries were made up last year.

For the year 1896-97 the issue of fiction, adult and juvenile, was 70 82-100 per cent. of our total circulation. For 1897-98 it was 65 77-100

per cent, a falling off in this class of more than 5 per cent. The counter-balancing increase has been principally in works on philosophy, natural science, history and travel.

### EDUCATIONAL WORK OF THE LIBRARY.

The literary taste of a city cannot be accurately gauged by the issues from its public library. It may be better than that would indicate. People of wealth, it is to be presumed, have many of the standard works in their own libraries; for a well-filled book-case, adorned with the names of celebrated authors, impresses guests with a more exalted opinion of the owner's taste; while if the lady of the house, or the daughter, hungers for the last new novel, which to-day is and to-morrow is cast into the oven, that appetite may be appeased at the public library. At least, this is how I console myself in moments of despondency.

But even thus the percentage of our adult fiction issues for the last year was only 42 3-10 per cent.;—juvenile fiction, 23 47-100 per cent., I do not count, for ever since the world began children have cried for a story.

If we bear in mind that in a public library free to all, there must necessarily be many members who have never before had any real acquaintance with books, in whom, therefore, the power to fix continued attention on the printed page—the habit of reading and reflecting—is still undeveloped, to whom a word of more than three syllables is as hard to get around as a spook on a lonely road after dark, we need not be alarmed because 42 3-10 per cent of our issues are of adult fiction. These fiction readers, some of them, are slowly passing through the story-telling period of juvenescence. They like the taste of sweetmeats; better things may be expected of them later.

But this is hardly fair, nor is it all; for as the old fairy tales were the dreams of poor people dreaming of some happier lot, so a wholesome story, a work of the imagination, may give not only entertainment but bring also a gleam of sunshine, some thrill of human sympathy, into the humdrum life of many a tired and discouraged woman.

However, the report from our information desk shows that we are doing a large amount of work of a genuinely instructive character. The following named clubs and classes have made constant demands upon all our resources throughout the year:

The Women's Club, New Era Club and Pekin Women's Club in the preparation of papers down on their yearly programmes.



The Women's Club special classes in history, travel, fiction and Shakespeare.

Friday Club.

Council of Jewish Women.

Bay View Reading Circle.

Shakespeare Class of the Y. W. C. A.

Reading Circle of the Y. W. C. A.

Class in history of music.

Musical Literary Society.

High School literature classes.

Grammar School eighth year, outside reading and essay work.

Students from Knox College, Galesburg, and Eureka College, Eureka, preparing theses and prize debates.

This represents, however, only a small part of the work done at our reference desk.

More than 140 separate reference lists have been prepared, besides lists of new books for our bulletin board, notices of especially noteworthy books, special lists on timely subjects, like the Philippine Islands, naval construction, Gladstone, etc., lists of good reading for young people at request of parents, making out club programmes, selection of books for holiday time, etc., etc.

We have constant calls for books or information on electricity, photography, engineering, boat-building, glucose, steel, use of the hydrometer, boiler construction, ventriloquism, care of rabbits, of dogs, gardening, cooking, embroidery, iron and wood work, china painting, early American pottery, evening entertainments, costumes, dialects of England, nebular hypothesis, famous bridges, impressionism in art, number of saloons in the United States, department stores, Edmunds bill, gasoline engines, kinds of fish in the Illinois river, who was Lincoln's first minister to France, why do members of Parliament sit with their hats on, costume for elves, costume of Henry Hudson, name of the Emperor of China, Gobelin tapestry, chant royal, etc., etc., on almost every conceivable subject, in fact. A fortnight before all holidays begins a demand for games, ghost stories and material for school programmes and entertainments. These are given as a few scattered samples only of the kind of work we are doing all the year round. Our High School is a good thing for our youth; our Polytechnic Institute is also a good thing for our youth one grade higher, but our Public Library is the great, popular university to which High School, Polytechnic Institute and everybody else in pursuit of knowledge goes.

"Hither as to their fountain, other stars repairing,

"In their golden urns draw light."

From other libraries, public institutions, societies and individuals we receive many reports, catalogues and pamphlets, which are duly acknowledged at the time. Among gifts of especial value received during the year are the following:

The Peoria Journal Co., publishing our bi-monthly lists of new books.

Mr. Geo. H. Stone, estate of Mrs. S. A. Coulter, 65 vols., principally text-books of the classics; 13 pictures, principally photographs of statuary and foreign scenes, also 5 walnut armchairs.

Mrs. S. A. Kinsey, framed photograph, "Defense of the Flag," from design of Mr. Fritz Triebel for soldiers' monument.

Mr. E. F. Leonard, large wall map of the state of Illinois, published by the Illinois Board of World's Fair Commissioners, 1892.

Mrs. E. M. Brackett, crayon portrait of Bishop Philander Chase.

Mrs. Louise G. Pierce, Large framed picture, chromo lithograph, of Alexander von Humboldt at the age of 87, in his library.

Estate of the late Rich. Gregg, 16 old folios, mostly Dutch, vellum bound.

Estate of the late Chas. P. King, oil portrait of Stephen A. Douglas, framed.

John B. Samuel, miscellaneous magazines and books, among them History of the Crusades, by Michaud, Illus. by Doré, 2 v., folio.

#### VALUABLE ADDITIONS DURING THE YEAR.

**Dodsworth.** History of banking. 4 v.  
Congressional Record, 51st cong., 1st sess. 12 v.

Congressional Record, 52d cong., 2d sess. 4 v.

Congressional Record, 53d cong., 1st sess. 4 v.

International cyclopædia. 15 v.

Appleton's annual cyclopædia, 1893-1897.

National cyclopedia of American biography. 7 v.

Warner's library of the world's best literature. 30 v.

**Kotzebue.** Theater. 25 v.

**Kerner.** Natural history of plants. 4 v.

Minnesota historical society collections. 8 v.

**Goupil.** Society of French aquarellists. 2 v., unbound, in portfolios.

Histories of the 9th, 59th, 84th and 95th regt. Illinois vols.

(We now have the regimental histories of the following Illinois regiments: Ill. cavalry, 9th reg., Ill. infantry, 7th, 9th, 13th, 36th, 39th, 45th, 55th, 59th, 73d, 77th, 84th, 86th, 95th, 96th, 102d, 104th, 112th.)

Illinois state board of pharmacy reports, 1884-1896.

Scientific American, 1852-1857. 5 v.  
Leisure hour, 1857-1882. 11 v.

By your permission, the Peoria Scientific Association, as tenants at will, now occupy, with their natural history collection, two large and attractive rooms in the third story of the library building. This valuable museum, the careful accumulation of many years, and constantly being added to, is a credit to our city and a most worthy adjunct to the library.

The Peoria Art League, also occupying two large rooms on the same floor and on the same terms, is doing good work in its line by its classes in the winter and its highly interesting exhibitions.

A catalogue of the principal works in our library is now well along in manuscript and will be ready for the printer early in the autumn. When this is issued we shall be in a condition to establish two branch libraries or delivery stations, one in the upper and one in the lower end of the city, provided the city council furnishes the means by an increase of our annual appropriation. To do this at the earliest practicable moment is a duty we owe to that part of our population to whom extreme distance from the central library is practically exclusion from the benefits of the library.

My best thanks are due to you, gentlemen, for your support and interested coöperation in our library work. There has been no sug-

gestion made during the year for the good of the library which has not received your careful and intelligent consideration and approval.

And not only the thanks of the librarian, but, I am sure, of the entire Board, indeed, of the entire city, are due to our library staff for the unremitting and faithful performance of their duties—in serving the public with promptness, patience and courtesy. The advantage our library possesses in employing only well-educated, well-informed and polite assistants is something our people may not think of, they are so used to it, but I am reminded of it often by the gratified commendation of visitors and members who come here from other and larger towns.

Respectfully submitted,

E. S. WILLCOX, *Librarian.*

## Appendix.

Lists of books from which were made up the libraries deposited in the Garfield, Sumner, Douglas, Whittier, Blaine and Lee Grammar schools for the school year 1897-98:

### FICTION.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Abbott.</b> Beechnut.<br/> Caleb in the country.<br/> Caleb in town.<br/> Caroline and Agnes.<br/> Ellen Linn.<br/> Jonas, a judge.<br/> Jonas on a farm.<br/> Learning about right and wrong.<br/> Learning to read.<br/> Malleville.<br/> Mary Erskine.</p> <p><b>Alcott.</b> Cupid and Chow-chow.<br/> Eight cousins.<br/> Garland for girls.<br/> Hospital sketches.<br/> Jack and Jill.<br/> Jimmy's cruise in the Pinafore.<br/> Jo's boys.<br/> Little men.<br/> Little women.<br/> My boys.<br/> My girls.<br/> Old-fashioned girl.<br/> Old-fashioned Thanksgiving.<br/> Rose in bloom.<br/> Shawl straps.<br/> Under the lilacs.</p> | <p><b>Alden.</b> World of little people.<br/> <b>Aldrich.</b> Story of a bad boy.<br/> <b>Arthur.</b> Ten nights in a bar-room.<br/> <b>Badlam.</b> Stories of child life, nos. 1-3.<br/> <b>Bardeen.</b> Roderick Hume.<br/> <b>Brooks.</b> Boy emigrants.<br/> <b>Bunyan's</b> Pilgrim's progress.<br/> <b>Burnett.</b> Editha's burglar.<br/> Little Lord Fauntleroy.<br/> Little Saint Elizabeth.<br/> Sara Crewe.<br/> <b>Butterworth.</b> Wampum belt.<br/> <b>Cargill.</b> Big-horn treasure.<br/> <b>Coffin.</b> Winning his way.<br/> <b>Cooper.</b> Leatherstocking tales. 5 v. Spy.<br/> <b>Craik.</b> Bow-wow and Mew-mew.<br/> <b>Day.</b> Sandford and Merton.<br/> <b>Defoe.</b> Robinson Crusoe.<br/> <b>Dodge.</b> Hans Brinker.<br/> Land of pluck.<br/> <b>Eggleston.</b> Hoosier school-boy.<br/> <b>Ewing.</b> Jack-a-napes.<br/> Jan of the windmill.<br/> <b>Frith.</b> Biography of a locomotive.<br/> <b>Gladden.</b> Santa Claus on a lark.<br/> <b>Hale.</b> Man without a country.</p> |
|--|--|

**Hale.** Peterkin papers.  
**Hall.** Adrift in the ice fields.  
**Harris.** Daddy Jake.  
**Henty.** By pike and dyke.  
     With Clive in India.  
     Young Carthaginians.  
**Hoppin.** Two Compton boys.  
**Howells.** Christmas every day.  
**Hughes.** Tom Brown's school-days.  
**Jackson.** Hunter cats.  
     Letters from a cat.  
     Mammy Tittleback and her family.  
     Nelly's silver mine.  
     Ramona.  
**Jewett.** Country byways.  
     Play days.  
**Kieffer.** Recollections of a drummer boy.  
**Kingsley.** Westward, ho!  
**Kingston.** On the banks of the Amazon.  
     Peter the whaler.  
**Knox.** John Boyd's adventures.  
**Laboulaye.** Abdallah.  
**Lothrop.** Five little Peppers and how they grew.  
     Five little Peppers midway.  
     Five little Peppers grown up.  
**Martineau.** Peasant and prince.  
**Molesworth.** Five minute stories.  
**Otis.** At the siege of Quebec.  
**Ouida.** Dog of Flanders.  
**Our** gold mine.  
**Page.** Two little confederates.  
**Porter.** Scottish chiefs.  
**Raymond.** Little red school-house.  
**Scott.** Rob Roy. (Ginn ed.)  
     Talisman. (Ginn ed.)  
**Seawell.** Decatur and Somers.  
     Little Jarvis.  
     Paul Jones.  
**Sewell.** Black Beauty.  
**Stoddard.** Little Smoke.  
**Stowe.** Little Pussy Willow.  
     Uncle Tom's cabin.  
**Strike** at Shane's.  
**Swift.** Gulliver's travels. (Ginn ed.)  
**Swinton.** First steps in our country's history.  
**Thompson.** Green Mountain boys.  
**Wallace.** Ben-Hur.  
**Warner.** Being a boy.  
**Whitney.** Boys at Chequasset.  
     Patience Strong's outings.  
**Wiggin.** Birds' Christmas Carol.  
     Polly Oliver's problem.  
     Story hour.  
     Story of Patsy.

Summer in a cañon.

**Wyss.** Swiss family Robinson.

## RELIGION, EDUCATION, MORALS AND MANNERS.

**Alton.** Among the law-makers.  
**Austin.** Uncle Sam's secrets.  
**Bartlett.** Facts I ought to know.  
**Brooks.** Century book.  
**Burdette.** Before he is twenty.  
**Chester.** Chats with girls.  
**Dewey.** Ethics.  
**Evans.** U. S. mint.  
**Hewett.** Notes for boys and their fathers.  
**Kirkland.** Speech and manners.  
**Mathews.** Getting on in the world.  
**Smiles.** Character.  
     Duty.

## SCIENCE, ART, AMUSEMENTS.

**Aiken.** Evenings at home.  
**Barnard.** First steps in electricity.  
**Beard.** American boy's handybook.  
     American girl's handybook.  
**Bert.** First steps in scientific knowledge.  
**Blaisdell.** Child's book of health.  
**Boy's** workshop.  
**Brown.** House I live in.  
**Buckley.** Fairyland of science.  
**Campbell.** American girl's home book.  
**Carey.** Autobiography of a lump of coal.  
**Giberne.** Among the stars.  
**Heilprin.** Earth and its story.  
**Information** readers, nos. 1-3.  
     Play book of metals.  
**Kirby.** Aunt Martha's corner cupboard.  
**Kirkland.** Dora's housekeeping.  
     Six little cooks.  
**Luken.** Young mechanic.  
**MacLeod.** Talk about common things.  
**Meadowcroft.** A B C of electricity.  
**Murché.** Science readers, nos. 1-6.  
**Pepper.** Boy's book of science.  
**Pratt.** Storyland of stars.  
**Thompson.** Boys' book of sports.  
**Tyler.** Experiments in chemistry.  
**Walker.** Health lessons.

## NATURAL HISTORY.

**Andrews.** Stories Mother Nature told her children.  
**Bamford.** Look-about club.  
     My land and water friends.

- Talks by queer folks.  
Up and down the brooks.
- Bass.** Nature stories: animal life.  
Nature stories: plant life.  
Nature studies.
- Bell.** Victor in Buzzland.
- Bell.** Science ladders, nos. 1-3.
- Biart.** Adventures of a young naturalist.
- Buckley.** Life and her children.
- Burroughs.** Birds and bees.  
Little nature studies.  
Wake-robin.
- Chase.** Nature stories for youngest readers: animals.  
Stories from animal land.  
Stories from birdland. 2 v.  
Stories of industry. 2 v.
- Flagg.** Year among the trees.  
Year with the birds.
- Frye.** Brooks and brook basins.
- Grant.** Our common birds.
- Hale.** Little flower people.
- Herrick.** Chapters on plant life.
- Hook.** Little people and their homes.
- Hooker.** Child's book of nature.
- Ingersoll.** Country cousins.
- Jackman.** Nature study.
- Johonnot.** Book of cats and dogs.  
Friends in feathers and fur.  
Neighbors with claws and hoofs.  
Neighbors with wings and fins.  
Some curious flyers, creepers and swimmers.
- Kelly.** Introduction to Leaves from nature's story-book.  
Leaves from nature's story-book. 3 v.
- Kingsley.** Madam How and Lady Why.
- Kirby.** Sea and its wonders.  
World by the fireside.
- Merriam.** Birds through an opera glass
- Miller.** My Saturday bird class.
- Miller.** Funny friends.  
Little folks in feathers and fur.
- Monteith.** Familiar animals.  
Living creatures.
- Morley.** Song of life.
- Nichols.** Under foot.
- Noel.** Buz.
- Pratt.** Fairyland of flowers.  
Little flower folks. 2 v.
- Richards.** Four feet, two feet and no feet.
- Stowe.** Queer little people.
- Tenney.** Young folks' pictures and stories of animals. 2 v.

- Wright.** Seaside and wayside, nos. 1-4.
- Wright.** Tommy-Anne and the three hearts.

## MYTHOLOGY, FAIRY TALES, LEGENDS, FABLES.

- Æsop's** fables.
- Andersen.** Ice maiden.  
Shoes of fortune.  
Ugly duck.  
Story teller.
- Arabian nights.** (Ed. by Hale.)
- Baldwin.** Fairy stories.  
Story of Siegfried.
- Beckwith.** In mythland.
- Brooks.** Stories of the red children.
- Burke.** Fairy tales.
- Chenoweth.** Stories of the saints.
- Church.** Stories of the old world.
- Compton.** Snow bird and the water tiger.
- Dodgson.** Alice's adventures in wonderland.  
Alice through a looking-glass.
- Ewing.** Lob-lie-by-the-fire.
- Farrow.** Missing prince.  
Wallypug of Why.
- Francillon.** Gods and heroes.
- Grimm.** Fairy tales.  
Household stories.
- Harding.** Stories of Greek gods, heroes and men.
- Hawthorne.** Tanglewood tales.  
Wonder book.
- Hays.** Princess Idleways.
- Ingelow.** Mopsa the fairy.
- Keary.** Heroes of Asgard.
- Kingsley.** Greek heroes.  
Water-babies.
- Kipling.** Jungle book. 1st & 2nd ser.
- Lamb.** Adventures of Ulysses.
- Lummis.** Man who married the moon.
- McDonald.** At the back of the north wind.
- Mulock.** Adventures of a brownie.  
Little lame prince.
- Pratt.** Greek myths. 2 v.  
Legends of the Norseland.  
Stories of old Germany.  
Stories of old Rome.
- Ruskin.** King of the Golden river.
- Scudder.** Book of fables.  
Seven little people.
- Smythe.** Primary reader.
- Tanner.** Legends from the red man's forest.

## LITERATURE.

## (Classical Literature, Poetry and Drama.)

- Alcott.** Comic tragedies.  
**Bellamy.** Open sesame. 3 v.  
**Brown.** Rab and his friends.  
**Church.** Story of the Iliad.  
**Cyr.** Children's reader.  
**Franklin.** Sayings of poor Richard.  
**Garrison.** Parables for school and home.  
**Harris.** Uncle Remus.  
**Jackson.** Bits of talk for our young folk.  
**Lamb.** Tales from Shakespeare.  
**Longfellow.** Hiawatha.  
 Leaflets.  
**Malory.** Boy's King Arthur.  
**Marsh.** Robin Hood.  
**Mother.** Goose melodies.  
**Norton.** Heart of oak books. 6 v.  
**Vandegrift.** Dead doll.  
**Whittier.** Child life in prose.  
 Leaflets.

## VOYAGES, TRAVELS, ADVENTURES.

- Abbott.** Marco Paul in Boston.  
 Marco Paul in Maine.  
 Marco Paul in New York.  
 Marco Paul in Vermont.  
 Marco Paul on the Erie canal.  
**Andrews.** Each and all.  
 Seven little sisters.  
**Badlam.** Views in Africa.  
**Baker.** Geography for young folks.  
**Ballou.** Footprints of travel.  
**Butterworth.** Over the Andes.  
 Zigzag journeys:  
 Acadia.  
 Antipodes.  
 British Isles.  
 Classic lands.  
 Europe.  
 India.  
 Levant.  
 Occident.  
 Orient.  
**Carpenter.** Geographical reader: Asia.  
**Champney.**  
 Three Vassar girls:  
 England.  
 France.  
 Italy.  
 Rhine.  
 Russia.  
 South America.

- Chaplin.** Little folks of other lands.  
**Coe.** Modern Europe.  
 Our American neighbors.  
**Custer.** Boots and saddles.  
**DuChaillu.** Country of the dwarfs.  
 Lost in a jungle.  
 Stories of the gorilla country.  
**Dunton.** First lessons.  
 Glimpses of the world.  
**Evans.** Guide to Washington.  
**Hale.**  
 Family flight:  
 Around home.  
 Egypt and Syria.  
 France.  
 Mexico.  
 Spain.  
 Stories of the sea.  
**Hall.** Our world reader.  
**Higginson.** Java.  
**Kellogg.** Australia and islands of the sea.  
**King.** At home and at school.  
 Land we live in, pts. 1-3.  
 This continent of ours.  
**Knox.**  
 Boy travelers:  
 Australia.  
 Central Europe.  
 Ceylon and India.  
 Congo.  
 Egypt and the Holy Land.  
 Great Britain and Ireland.  
 Japan and China.  
 Levant.  
 Mexico.  
 Northern Europe.  
 Russian Empire.  
 Siam and Java.  
 South America.  
 Southern Europe.  
 Young Nimrods in North America.  
**Lander.**  
 Spectacles for young eyes:  
 Boston.  
 Moscow.  
 New York.  
 Peking.  
 St. Petersburg.  
**Long.** Home geography.  
**Lummis.** Some strange corners of our country.  
**Miller.** Little people of Asia.  
**Ober.** Knockabout club in North Africa.  
 Silver city.  
**Parkman.** Oregon trail.  
**Pratt.** Australasia.

China.  
 India.  
 Northern Europe.  
**Schwatka.** Children of the cold.  
 Nimrods of the north.  
**Scudder.** Bodleys on wheels.  
 English Bodley family.  
**Smith.** White umbrella in Mexico.  
**Smith.** Life in Asia.  
 Our own country.  
**Stockton.** Personally conducted.  
**Taylor.** Boys of other countries.  
**Verne.** Famous travels.  
 Great explorers.  
 Great navigators.  
**Warner.** In the wilderness.  
**Watson.** Child life in Italy.  
**Wells.** City boys in the woods.  
**Yonge.** Little Lucy's wonderful globe.

### HISTORY.

**Abbot.** Blue jackets of 1812.  
**Andrews.** Ten boys who lived on the road, etc.  
**Barnes.** Yankee ships and Yankee sailors.  
**Blaisdell.** Stories of the civil war.  
**Brooks.** Stories of the American sailor.  
 Stories of the American soldier.  
**Burton.** Massasoit.  
 Story of our country.  
**Butterworth.** Little Arthur's history of Rome.  
 Young folks' history of America.  
**Carver.** Our fatherland.  
**Coffin.** Boys of '76.  
 Boys of '61.  
 Building the nation.  
 Drumbeat of the nation.  
 Freedom triumphant.  
 Marching to victory.  
 My days and nights on the battlefield.  
 Old times in the colonies.  
 Redeeming the republic.  
 Story of liberty.  
**Corbett.** Stories of the three Americas.  
**Dickens.** Child's history of England.  
**Drake.** Indian history.  
 Making of the great west.  
**Dresbach.** History of Illinois.  
**Eggleston.** First book in American history.  
 History of the U. S.  
 Stories of American life and adventure.  
 Strange stories from history.

**Ellis.** Epochs in American history.  
 Stories from American history.  
**Fiske.** History of the U. S.  
 War of independence.  
**Froissart.** Boy's Froissart, ed. by Lanier.  
**Frost.** Thrilling adventures among the Indians.  
**Gibson.** School history.  
**Gilman.** Story of Rome.  
**Glascok.** Stories of Columbia.  
**Griffis.** Brave little Holland.  
**Hale.** Stories of discovery.  
 Stories of war.  
**Halstead.** Story of Cuba.  
**Higginson.** American explorers.  
 Young folks' history of the U. S.  
**Johonnot.** Stories of other lands.  
 Ten great events in history.  
**Judson.** Europe in the nineteenth century.  
**Lodge.** Hero tales.  
**McMurray.** Pioneer history stories.  
**Montgomery.** Beginner's American history.  
**Ober.** History of Mexico.  
**Pierson.** History of the U. S.  
**Pratt.** American history stories. 4 v.  
 Stories of colonial children.  
 Stories of the great west.  
 Stories of Massachusetts.  
**Rand.** Deeds worth telling.  
**Rogers.** Story of Holland.  
**Rolfe.** Tales from English history.  
 Tales from Scottish history.  
**Scott.** Tales of a grandfather.  
 Tales of chivalry.  
**Sewell.** First history of Greece.  
**Tiffany.** Pilgrims and puritans.  
**Wright.** Children's stories of American history.  
 Stories of American progress.

### BIOGRAPHY, COLLECTIVE.

**Bolton.** Famous American authors.  
 Famous leaders among men.  
 Lives of girls who became famous.  
 Lives of poor boys who became famous.  
**Brave men's footsteps.**  
**Brooks.** Historic boys.  
 Historic girls.  
**Eggleston.** Stories of great Americans.  
**Hale.** Lights of two centuries.  
**Manning.** Heroes of the desert.  
**Parton.** Captains of industry, 1st & 2nd ser.  
 Daughters of fame.

Daughters of genius.  
**Pierson.** Lives of the presidents.  
**Plutarch's lives.** (Ginn ed.)  
**Stories of great men.**  
**Yonge.** Book of golden deeds.

### INDIVIDUAL BIOGRAPHY.

**Alcott.** Life, letters and journals.  
**Alexander the Great.** By Abbott.  
**Alfred the Great.** By Abbott.  
**Banks.** Oregon boyhood.  
**Boone.** By Abbott.  
**Cæsar.** By Abbott.  
**Columbus.** By Irving.  
     By Pratt.  
**Cook.** By Besant.  
**Cortez and Montezuma.** By Pratt.  
**Crockett.** By Abbott.  
**Cyrus the Great.** By Abbott.  
**Elizabeth.** By Abbott.  
**Franklin.** Autobiography.  
     Poor Richard's story. By Watson.  
     True to his home. By Butterworth.

**Fulton.** By Knox.  
**Grant.** By Headley.  
     Boy's life. By Knox.  
**Hale.** New England boyhood.  
**Jackson.** By Frost.  
     By Parton.  
**Jones, Paul.** By Abbott.  
**Josephine.** By Abbott.  
**Lafayette.** By Watson.  
**Larcom.** New England girlhood.  
**Lincoln.** By Brooks.  
     By Butterworth.  
     By Putnam.  
**Marion.** By Horry and Weems.  
**Montezuma.** By Eggleston.  
**Peter the Great.** By Abbott.  
**Pizarro.** By Pratt.  
**Pocahontas.** By Eggleston.  
**Tecumseh.** By Eggleston.  
**Washington and His Country.** By Irving, abridged by Fiske.  
     Life. By Scudder.  
     By Seelye.  
**William the Conqueror.** By Abbott.

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Fairy tales .....	47
Literature .....	26
Travel .....	97
History .....	70
Biography, collective .....	18
Biography, individual.....	39
Total.....	525



## STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1897-98.

## RECEIPTS.

From city appropriation.....	\$13,580.72
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1897.....	29.85
Rent from teachers' club .....	250.00
Fines.....	558.78
Books damaged and paid for.....	13.70
Books lost and paid for.....	14.87
Extra books loaned.....	13.60
Duplicate cards issued .....	8.90
Memberships .....	9.50
Catalogues sold .....	14.85
	<hr/> \$14,494.77

## EXPENDITURES.

Books .....	\$2,911.56
Periodicals .....	742.84
Stationery .....	155.65
Salaries .....	5,631.45
Janitor service.....	1,080.00
Binding (labor) .....	1,681.89
Binding (materials) .....	202.05
Fuel .....	339.26
Light.....	493.49
Insurance .....	60.00
Supplies .....	27.67
Expense .....	583.93
New library building .....	21.54
Furniture and fixtures.....	334.22
Improvement .....	188.80
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1898.....	40.42
	<hr/> \$14,494.77

## MEMBERSHIPS.

Memberships in force June 1, 1897.....	6,117
Memberships issued during the year.....	3,009
Total .....	<hr/> 9,126
Memberships expired during the year .....	2,890
Memberships in force May 31, 1898 .....	<hr/> 6,236

Highest issue on any week day during 1897-8 ..... Mar. 19, 1898, 1,122 vols.  
Lowest " " " " " " ..... Sept. 15, 1897, 220 "

## DELINQUENTS.

Books kept overtime during the year.....	11,737
Number of fine notices sent.....	1,563
"    " notices to guarantors.....	77
"    " for books reserved.....	1,125

## SCHOOL ISSUE.

	Gar- field.	Sum- ner.	Doug- las.	Whit- tier.	Blaine.	Lee.	Total.
Literature .....	199	19	102	53	27	53	453
Science, art, religion .....	1,838	634	225	150	144	124	3,115
History, biography, travel ..	2,847	1,567	599	503	592	325	6,433
Fiction, fairy tales, legends ..	2,342	1,085	566	467	353	215	5,028
	7,226	3,305	1,492	1,173	1,116	717	15,029

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class June 1, 1897, the losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents of the Library May 31, 1898.

	Total vols. in Library May 31, 1897.	Lost and paid for.	Worn out and withdrawn.	Balance	No. volumes added 1897-8.	Total vols. in Library May 31, 1898	
						No.	Per cent.
Philosophy .....	870	...	...	870	64	934	1.52
Theology .....	2,291	...	...	2,291	108	2,399	3.90
Social and political sciences .....	7,782	1	...	7,781	459	8,240	13.40
Natural sciences and useful arts ..	6,702	1	3	6,698	356	7,054	11.47
Fine arts and poetry .....	3,647	...	...	3,647	204	3,851	6.26
Vocal and instrumental music.....	287	...	...	287	29	316	.51
Fiction.....	8,970	5	209	8,756	687	9,443	15.36
Juvenile literature .....	5,438	7	178	5,253	905	6,158	10.01
Literary miscellany.....	4,496	2	6	4,488	233	4,721	7.68
History and travel .....	11,079	...	1	11,078	480	11,558	18.80
Cyclopædias and periodicals.....	6,543	...	47	6,496	325	6,821	11.09
Total .....	58,105	16	444	57,645	3,850	61,495	100.00

## CHARACTER OF ADDITIONS.

English .....	3,533
German .....	250
French .....	4
Latin .....	8
Greek .....	9
Dutch .....	15
Polish .....	2
Vocal and instrumental music .....	29
Total.....	3,850
Purchased.....	2,850
Donations .....	495
Periodicals bound.....	500
Total.....	3,850







THE  
NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND THE  
Forty-Second Annual Report since its Organization  
as the Peoria City Library

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PEORIA, ILLINOIS

For the Year Ending May 31, 1899.

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**DIRECTORS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FROM ITS ORIGIN, APRIL, 1880.**

John S. Lee .....	1880 to 1889
James C. Dolan.....	1880 " 1894
Mathew Henebery.....	1880 " 1894
Bernard Cremer .....	1880 " date
Henry Ullman.....	1880 " 1898
Austin F. Johnson .....	1880 " 1884
J. M. Hutchinson .....	1880 " 1884
Chas. B. Allaire.....	1880 " 1883
Geo. B. Foster.....	1880 " 1886
James Millard .....	1884 " 1886
Matthew Griswold.....	1884 " 1886
Robert C. Grier .....	1884 " date
Henry W. Wells .....	1886 " date
Dan F. Raum .....	1886 " 1889
Thos. B. Burnett.....	1889 " 1890
Geo. B. Foster.....	1889 " 1892
Thos. M. McIlvaine.....	1890 " date
Edward Hine .....	1892 " 1895
Chas. R. Vandervort.....	1894 " date
Frank Meyer.....	1894 " 1897
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1895 " 1898
Mark W. Goss .....	1896 " 1897
Samuel D. Wead .....	1897 " date
James P. Nailon .....	1897 " date
N. E. Worthington .....	1898 " date
Max Newman .....	1898 " 1899
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1899



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1899-1900.

THOMAS M. McILVAINE, 516 Main Street.....	Term expires	1900
SAMUEL D. WEAD, 129 N. Jefferson Ave .....	"	" 1900
JAMES P. NAILON, 310 Liberty Street.....	"	" 1900
BERNARD CREMER, German-American National Bank ....	"	" 1901
HENRY W. WELLS, 325 Main Street.....	"	" 1901
NICHOLAS E. WORTHINGTON, Circuit Court, Court House..	"	" 1901
ROBERT C. GRIER, Board of Trade.....	"	" 1902
CHARLES R. VANDERVORT, 519 N. Jefferson Ave .....	"	" 1902
LEONARD F. HOUGHTON, Peoria National Bank.....	"	" 1902

## OFFICERS.

R. C. GRIER .....	<i>President</i>
H. W. WELLS.....	<i>Vice-President</i>
B. CREMER .....	<i>Secretary</i>

## STANDING COMMITTEES.

*Finance and Auditing*—Houghton, Cremer, Nailon.

*Books*—Wells, Vandervort, Worthington.

*Executive*—Grier (*ex-officio*), McIlvaine, Wead.

## LIBRARY SERVICE.

*Librarian*—E. S. WILLCOX.

### *Assistants :*

Emilie E. Brendel,	Irene Stewart,*†
Anna L. Archer,	Charles Maclay Booth,
Elizabeth T. Ellis,	Harold H. Willcox,
John M. Youngman,	Helen M. Ballard,‡
Louise L. Booth.‡*	

### *In the Bindery :*

Richard J. Cross,	Ruth McKenzie,	Rachel Garrabrant,
Edith A. Quinn,	Margaret A. Theena.	

*Evening Attendant*—Samuel W. Dodge.

*Engineer*—John J. Steiger.

*Janitress*—Mrs. Mary E. Theena.

The Library is open for the delivery of books, except on Sundays and holidays, from 9 A. M. until 8 P. M.; on Saturdays until 9 P. M.

Reading Room open from 9 A. M. until 9 P. M.; on Sundays from 2 P. M. until 6 P. M.

\*Occasional. †Until October 1st. ‡From October 1st.



## Report of the Directors.

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*To the Hon. Henry W. Lynch, Mayor, and to the Members of the City Council:*

As required, and on behalf of the Board of Directors, the annual report of the Public Library is submitted.

The Report of the Librarian, you will find, gives in detail and fully, information as to the administration of Library affairs. The report is comprehensive, interesting, instructive, and is well worth careful consideration.

Your Directors desire a still more general appreciation of the Public Library on the part of our citizens. To this end we have a committee appointed for investigation and suggestion of ideas and plans that may bring satisfactory results.

Respectfully,

R. C. GRIER, *President.*

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## Report of the Librarian.

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*To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library:*

GENTLEMEN:—Herewith I beg leave to present my report for the year ending May 31, 1899—the 19th annual report of the Peoria Public Library and the 42d report of the same library since its origin as the Peoria City Library.

### MEMBERSHIP.

Memberships in our library run for two years and must then be renewed or dropped; our membership is, therefore, always an active one. The number of memberships May 31, 1898, was 6,236; it is now, May 31, 1899, 6,393.

The gradual and healthy growth of our library service since May 31, 1891, eight years ago, as a starting point for instance, is shown by the following figures:

May 31, 1891.	Memberships,	4,595;	now,	6,393,	an increase of	39	per cent.
"	"	Vols. in library,	38,608;	"	64,426,	"	"
"	"	Home circulat'n,	80,507;	"	152,982,	"	"
						61 <sup>43</sup> / <sub>100</sub>	"
						90	"

### CATALOGUES.

The revision of our system of classification begun in 1892, was followed by a revision and expansion of our card catalogue into a complete dictionary catalogue of authors, subjects and titles in alphabetical order. This very laborious and exacting work of our catalogue department was immediately followed by the preparing and printing of a fiction list, 106 pages, double columns, 8<sup>vo</sup>, in 1894, and this was followed on the first of January of the present year, by the printing of what we had been several years preparing—a classified catalogue of all the important works in our library except fiction, juveniles and German; 223 pages, double columns, 8<sup>vo</sup>, and in April of this year we issued our first supplement to the fiction list, 28 pages, double columns, 8<sup>vo</sup>, and we have now under way a catalogue of our German books.

In the matter of catalogues, therefore, we are now, or soon shall be, well equipped to date—as well, probably, as any library I am acquainted with, to the great satisfaction of ourselves, the working force, as well as to our public.

I cannot help remarking, however, that after appealing to us many years for such assistance in getting at the contents of our library as we have provided in the way of catalogues, our friends show a surprising diffidence in buying them. Of our classified catalogue, embracing over 30,000 volumes, we printed 1,000 copies and we sell them at 40 cents, less than half the actual cost. With a library membership of 6,393 it might have been expected that half the edition, 500 copies, would have been sold before now. In point of fact we have sold just 73.

### CIRCULATION.

Of books read in the library we keep no record, nor of works of reference and periodicals consulted from the open shelves in

the reading room, as it has been found impracticable to make an accurate count of such uses.

The home circulation for the year—books taken home—was 152,982 volumes as compared with 153,440 last year, a falling off of 458 volumes, a common experience with libraries this year. I know of no especial reason for it, unless it be the Spanish-American war and the consequently increased reading of the daily newspapers and the illustrated magazines. In the year of our last presidential election there was a still greater decline in circulation.

The difficulty of forcing our public to absorb more than a certain amount of general reading in a given period is shown by our experience in the public schools. At the beginning of the school year, as you are aware, it has been our custom now for several years to place in each of our public schools farthest from the center of town, a small library of from 200 to 400 attractive books, carefully chosen to suit the taste and capacity of young people. These books are issued at the schools under precisely the same conditions as at the library itself, and are read at home by members of the family as well as by the pupils. Since the children attending these outlying schools are mostly strangers to the public library, the privilege of reading such books must be a new and untasted pleasure to them, and we might reasonably look for a steady increase in this school circulation, especially as two new schools were furnished with libraries this year. Yet the total circulation from seven schools was only 14,784, as against 15,029 from five schools last year, a loss of 245. There would seem to be such a thing as a point of saturation where no more can be swallowed, even by children, whether it be books or mutton.

This question of circulation is the same that the merchant and manufacturer ask—where and how shall I find more customers. If the territory is a limited one and already fairly well supplied, no phenomenal increase in the sale of staple articles from year to year can be expected; a given community cannot double its consumption of bread, meat and potatoes in a twelve-month, it has not the appetite.

We have a new and inviting library building in the heart of the city, within half a block of all our street car lines; we have a

library of more than 66,000 volumes,— one of the largest, best, and, in its various departments, most evenly balanced libraries east or west; invoices of the newest books, popular and standard, are received every week, almost every day; your book committee have never yet denied a request for the purchase of desirable books, and no fault is found, or can be found, I believe, with the prompt and intelligent service rendered by our assistants. There is no man or woman within the city limits, possessed of a taste for reading and with leisure to read, who cannot get here all the books he or she wants. But we must not forget that Peoria is a manufacturing and mercantile city rather than a distinctively educational or literary one; we are all busy in our several avocations, and leisure—elegant leisure—is an unfamiliar word with us, at least with the men. Up to about the age of 25 or 30 our young men fresh from school and our clerks and mechanics keep up their reading with more or less of continuity; then comes business or a profession and a gap in their general reading, or they continue it from their own growing private collections; but between the ages of 30 and 65 men do not draw books from the public library, they consult them in the line of their work. In the street where I live there is not a man, not one of my near neighbors, who draws books here; and yet I am persuaded that no one, certainly no resident in that street, will dispute the fact that, for its length, no street in our city can boast a greater number of intelligent, influential citizens. After seventy, when the stress of business life is over, a man may turn again to books if he has not lost the taste—to novels, even. Novels can not hurt him seriously so late in life, and may keep him from something worse—from organizing a trust, perhaps, or founding a new religion.

I asked one of our prominent business men why I never saw him in the library. "What time have I to read books?" he said. "I have to read the papers first, anyway, to know what is going on in the world and in the line of my business—two Peoria dailies and one Chicago daily. My wife is a better scholar than I am—knows history much better; she does not care so much for the papers, she reads books; she is on the front porch reading one now, while I am going down town to meet a man. Besides the daily papers and our church paper, we have Harper,

the Century, the Atlantic, Scribner and McClure, to say nothing of the big Sunday papers. Isn't that about enough?"

I put the same question to my grocer, my shoemaker and others, and received a similar reply; they had no time to read, hardly even the daily papers except on Sunday. The answer is always the same—too busy, too tired, the newspaper or reading of their own at home. Behind these reasons there are in many cases, no doubt, two other unacknowledged ones—the taste for reading not cultivated in youth, and the attractions and distractions of city life—the theatre, the lodge, the club, fraternal societies, the saloon, the street corner,—these draw men down town of evenings and leave the women at home with the children and a book.

In looking around, then, for more business, it is plain that we cannot expect any great accessions from the ranks of busy men, nor from the great multitude who, from defective education or from the accident of foreign birth or parentage, have never acquired a taste for English literature. Leaving out these classes as hopeless for us, other classes—children, youths, clerks, mechanics, women and older men, lovers of good books, are all well represented in our membership.

I have no fear but that our circulation will grow and more than keep pace with the growth of our city. We certainly have no cause for alarm yet, for it has steadily risen from 80,507 home circulation in 1891, to 152,982 this last year, a gain of 90 per cent. in eight years. This, supposing we have a population of 50,000, is more than three books to each person, while Chicago, with a population of perhaps 1,750,000, shows by the report of her public library just issued, a circulation for 1898-99 of 1,690,904,—a truly wonderful circulation, yet not so much as one volume to each one of her population.

Circulation, however, is by no means the only test of the value of a library. As a great storehouse of information on all conceivable subjects—a thesaurus of the gathered wisdom of all ages—a great library well classified, indexed and kept up to date is of priceless value to the community. This is demonstrated every day by the number of persons of all ages and conditions of life who come to us for consultation, investigation, and for the perusal of our large and comprehensive list of literary, historical and scientific periodicals.

The multiplication of women's clubs, study classes and reading circles within the last few years has caused a notable improvement in the quality of the reading done by our people. It is not so much that the ladies of these literary circles read more books, perhaps they read fewer, but they consult and study more, and books of a more informing character. They seek improvement rather than amusement, and, in response to their demands, our information desk has grown to be a recognized and indispensable institution in our city.

Women's clubs, in one form or another, not only in our city but in all parts of the State, have, within the same time, developed an activity in matters of education, philanthropy and sociology, that ought to be alarming to the men if they care to maintain their old, now verging on ancient, supremacy and leadership in the State. Nor do these ladies rest satisfied with study and culture for themselves alone; appreciating the refining influence of good books, they have been quick to seize upon new ideas, and, with little encouragement from the other side of the house, none whatever from our legislature, are now organizing and sending out numerous so-called traveling libraries, of from 50 to 100 books each, into the rural districts, to the farmers' wives and children who have no access to libraries.

#### THE BINDERY AND BINDING.

Our bindery represents a fixed investment of \$555, and we employ one foreman and four young women the year round. Their work shows 594 volumes bound new, mostly periodicals, 35 volumes of newspapers—our local dailies, one Chicago and one New York daily,—2,528 volumes rebound, principally fiction, the hardest worked part of our public library, 3,581 volumes repaired, books with torn or loose leaves, 57 portfolios or cases for our current magazines and much miscellaneous work.

The binding is as neat and durable as we know how to make it, it will outwear the body of the book. Each section of eight, twelve or sixteen pages, is secured to its adjoining section "all along" or "two sheets on" according to the size and thickness of the section, and to three or four cords or tapes that cross the backs, the ends of which cords are firmly laced into the board covers so that with further reinforcements, super, muslin and lining paper, a strong joint is made and book and cover are indissolubly united.



That after some months of hard wear we should have to rebind a popular 12<sup>mo</sup> novel is not surprising, we expect it; but we ought not to have to rebind large and costly octavos and quartos after only half a dozen handlings—books bearing the imprint of old and reputable houses, beautiful to look at, but cheaply put together.

Rip Van Winkle, as Played by Joseph Jefferson, a \$5.00 octavo, stood nine issues before falling to pieces; Dean Worcester's Philippine Islands, 580 octavo pages, \$4.00, stood eight issues; Hobson's Sinking of the Merrimac stood six; Miss America, three; Landor's In the Forbidden Land, a sumptuously printed and illustrated octavo, in two volumes, \$9.00, is a still more striking example of how a heavy volume should not be bound, at least not for a public library. Volume I has 307 pages of letter press, besides title-page, contents, introduction and a number of full page illustrations, some 380 pages altogether. It is printed on the heaviest, double thick, enameled paper, on a 32 page form and weighs  $3\frac{1}{4}$  pounds—a very heavy book. Each sheet, and consequently each section or signature into which the sheet is folded for binding, is, therefore, four times as thick and heavy as the sections of so large a book should be. There are only twelve sections to the book, when there should have been thirty to make the book bind well. In putting the book together, section by section, each of these thick sections should have been sewed "all along" to its adjoining section with strong linen thread, Hayes 3-ply No. 16, and over tapes or bands laid across or sawn into the back, but nothing of this sort was done. There are no bands. The thread is of the slenderest, and the sewing is apparently by machine. Now, to this loosely put together body of the book a case made cover is attached by gluing a flimsy strip of cheese cloth or super over the rounded back of the book, the edges of the same, an inch wide, being pasted or glued on to the board covers. Excepting a strip of paper, this open woven cheese cloth is all that makes the joint to hold book and cover together, which the least careless handling, dropping the book on the floor, would be likely to tear apart. Both volumes are now in the bindery, fallen in pieces after seven issues. If we could not, even with such unwieldy sections, bind them better, they would be in the bindery half the time and we should be compelled to keep a double supply on hand.

I am not unaware of the presumable reason for using the extremely thick enameled paper—to produce a better effect with their half-tone pictures, and, just possibly, lacking matter enough to make a big book, the literary shortage was made good by the help of more wood pulp; but if the use of the heavy paper had been limited to the full page inserted illustrations as is done in Harper's Magazine, and a thinner paper used for the letter press work, with 12 or 16-page sections instead of 32, and with honest sewing and forwarding, this attractive looking work would not have been so suggestive of having been made only to sell. Books got up in this style should be supplied to libraries in sheets or in paper covers unbound, and at a lower price, leaving the libraries to bind them to suit their especial needs.

(Out of long time respect for publishing firms to whom, in a far-off kind of way, I have ventured to allude, I reverently refrain from mentioning names—I should as soon think of entering the sacred precincts on the banks of old Nile and throwing a brick at the awful image of the great god Phtha.)

It is not so small a matter to rebind a damaged book as one might think, for each book has to go through 41 separate and distinct handlings in the process, as follows:

#### Preparing.

- |                                |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Take in pieces.             | 20. Press again.                    |
| 2. Clean each section of glue. | 21. Wash off backs with thin paste. |
| 3. Mend torn leaves.           | 22. Put on head bands.              |
| 4. Beat with hammer.           | 23. Line up backs.                  |
| 5. Put in the press.           | 24. Put bands on backs.             |
| 6. Saw backs for sewing.       | 25. Cut and skive leathers.         |
| 7. Insert lining leaves.       | 26. Put backs and corners on.       |
| 8. Collate.                    |                                     |
| 9. Sew.                        |                                     |

#### Forwarding.

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 10. Tip up first two leaves and first section and last two leaves and last section. |                                     |
| 11. Trim edges.   |                                     |
| 12. Glue the back.  |                                     |
| 13. Rounding.   |                                     |
| 14. Backing.  |                                     |
| 15. Cut and fit boards.   |                                     |
| 16. Mark and stab boards.   |                                     |
| 17. Lace on boards.   |                                     |
| 18. Knock down cords or tapes.  |                                     |
| 19. Color or sprinkle edges.  |                                     |
|   | <b>Finishing.</b>                   |
|   | 27. Put on marble paper sides.      |
|   | 28. Paste inside leaves to cover.   |
|   | 29. Wash backs with paste water.    |
|   | 30. Put glair on leather.           |
|   | 31. Put on gold fillets.            |
|   | 32. Put on flower rolls.            |
|   | 33. Letter author and title.        |
|   | 34. Letter volume and class.        |
|   | 35. Letter name of library.         |
|   | 36. Polish.                         |
|   | 37. Press, large books with tins.   |
|   | 38. Open up each book separately.   |
|   | 39. Varnish the leather.            |
|   | 40. Paste in pockets.               |
|   | 41. Take count of number and sizes. |

## GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY.

From other libraries, public institutions and individuals we receive many reports, pamphlets and books which are acknowledged at the time. Among gifts of special value received during the year are the following:

From J. B. Barnes, Peoria, the printing of our bi-monthly lists of new books in the Peoria Evening Journal, and three large wall maps of Cuba, Porto Rico and the United States.

Major Henry W. Wells, eleven old, valuable wall maps.

F. W. Arnold, Peoria, large wall map of Cuba in sections, and large wall map of the province of Havana.

Mrs. Lucie B. Tyng and Mrs. Martha B. Reynolds: Twenty-one bound volumes of sheet music—the acquisitions of their mother, the late Mrs. F. B. M. Brotherson, of all or nearly all the popular music, vocal and pianoforte, during her long life—a most valuable collection which it would be difficult if not impossible to duplicate anywhere.

Miss Mary A. Bestor: Eight volumes, historical and miscellaneous.

J. H. Calderwood, Commissioner: Reports of Montana Bureau of Agriculture, five volumes.

Chicago Sanitary District: Proceedings, 1877-1898, three volumes.

Chicago Department of Public Works: Reports, 1895-1898, three volumes.

E. S. Willcox: Coke's Commentaries on Littleton, folio, 13th edition, 1788, in parallel columns, English and old law French.

Mrs. Ullman: One large wall portrait of her husband, the late Henry Ullman, Esq., member of the Library Board.

Our library is the natural and safe depository of all written or printed matter touching the life and history of our city, and the directors would be grateful for any gifts of that kind.

Even so ephemeral a thing as a concert or lecture programme is valuable and worth preserving, and a complete file of such programmes running back sixty years would now be above all price. Such a file would include the programme of a concert given here in the spring of 1854 by the Strakosch troupe,—Maurice Strakosch, Madame Amalia Strakosch, her little sister Adelina Patti, then eleven years old and in short clothes, and Ole Bull.

## VALUABLE ADDITIONS DURING THE YEAR.

Journal of Speculative Philosophy, 1876-1893, completing set to date..	13 vols.
Chambers's Edinburgh Journal, 1832-1896 .....	73 "
Westminster Review, 1824-1851, 1877.....	57 "
Hunt's Merchants' Magazine, 1856-1870.....	28 "
New York Genealogical and Biographical Record.....	22 "
Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography.....	21 "

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Bates' History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1-5.....	5 vols.
Lineage Book of Daughters of American Revolution .....	8 "
Linn and Egle, Pennsylvania in the Revolution.....	2 "
Furthey. History of Chester County, Pa. ....	1 "

The value, all paid for, of the property of the Peoria Public Library Board at the present time and at a moderate estimate, is as follows:

Books, 66,000 volumes .....	\$ 99,000
Library building and improvements .....	70,000
3 lots, 108 x 171, original cost .....	16,000
Furniture, fixtures and bindery.....	5,000
	<hr/>
	\$ 190,000

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#### MR. HENRY ULLMAN.

On the 5th of September last occurred the death of Mr. Henry Ullman, one of the oldest members of the Public Library Board. At the next following meeting of the Board the following action was taken, expressive of the feelings of respect and friendship entertained by every surviving member:

#### RESOLUTION.

Our colleague and friend, Mr. Henry Ullman, a member of this Board continuously from its first organization in 1880, departed this life on the 5th of the present month, September, 1898.

For forty-two years Mr. Ullman had been a resident of Peoria, respected and honored in all the relations of life, a public-spirited citizen, a wise counselor, a sympathetic friend, an upright man. We shall miss his genial presence and his practical business experience in the future deliberations of this Board.

To his surviving family we tender this assurance of our heartfelt sympathy.

Ordered, That this action be inscribed on the records of our library and a copy of the same be given to Mrs. Ullman and to the press.

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Our roll of assistants remains the same as one year ago with the following exceptions: In August, 1898, Miss Irene Stewart resigned her position to pursue her studies in the N. Y. State Library School at Albany, and at the end of May, 1899, Miss Emilie E. Brendel, after long and faithful service, left us to fill a

larger, still more agreeable sphere in life. Miss Helen M. Ballard and Miss Louise Booth were appointed to succeed them respectively. Since the close of our year another assistant, Mr. C. Maclay Booth, has resigned his place to accept an honorable situation with one of the large wholesale houses of our city.

To all our assistants I desire to render thanks for faithful work performed, and for the always pleasant and harmonious relations they have maintained with one another and with our public.

Respectfully submitted,

E. S. WILLCOX, *Librarian*.

### LIST OF PERIODICALS TAKEN.

Gifts are designated by an asterisk.\*

#### Daily Papers.

Chicago Chronicle.  
Chicago Times-Herald.  
Chicago Tribune.  
\*Congressional Record.  
New York Tribune.  
\*Peoria Evening Star.  
\*Peoria German Demokrat.  
\*Peoria Herald-Transcript.  
\*Peoria Journal.  
\*Peoria Sonne.  
\*Peoria Volksfreund.  
St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

#### Weeklies.

Academy.  
American Architect.  
\*American Banker.  
American Gardening.  
American Field.  
Athenæum.  
Christian Endeavor World.  
\*Christian Science Sentinel.  
Chums.  
Dramatic Mirror.  
Electrical World.  
Engineering.  
Engineering and Mining Journal.  
Engineering Record.  
Fliegende Blätter.  
Forest and Stream.  
Graphic.  
Harper's Bazar.  
Harper's Weekly.  
Illustrated London News.  
Illustrirte Zeitung.

Independent.  
Iron Age.  
Journal of Education.  
\*L. A. W. Bulletin.  
Leslie's Weekly.  
Life.  
Literary Digest.  
Living Age.  
London Times.  
Musical Courier.  
Nation.  
Notes and Queries.  
Nature.  
\*Orange Judd Farmer.  
Outlook.  
\*Patent Office Gazette.  
\*Peoria Sonntags Post.  
\*Public, The.  
Public Opinion.  
Publishers' Weekly.  
Punch.  
Saturday Review.  
School Journal.  
Science.  
Scientific American.  
Scientific American Supplement.  
Spectator.  
Sunday School Times.  
Western Electrician.  
Youth's Companion.

#### Bi-Weeklies.

\*Choir Journal.  
\*College Rambler.  
Dial.  
Engineer.

## LIST OF PERIODICALS TAKEN—CONTINUED.

- \*Eureka College Pegasus.  
 \*Gleanings in Bee Culture.  
 Literary World.  
 Vom Fels zum Meer.  
 Zur Guten Stunde.
- Monthlies.**
- American Amateur Photographer.  
 American Colonial Tracts.  
 Am. Engineering and R. R. Journal.  
 Am. Monthly Microscopical Journal.  
 American Naturalist.  
 Animals.  
 Antiquary.  
 Arena.  
 Art Amateur.  
 Art Interchange.  
 Art Journal.  
 Arts for America.  
 Astrophysical Journal.  
 Atlantic.  
 \*Banner of Gold.  
 Biblia.  
 Biblical World.  
 Birds and all Nature.  
 Blackwood.  
 Bon Ton.  
 Book Buyer.  
 \*Book Reviews.  
 Bookman (Am.).  
 Bookman (Eng.).  
 Botanical Gazette.  
 Boy's Own Paper.  
 Business.  
 Carpentry and Building.  
 Cassier's Magazine.  
 Catholic World.  
 Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen.  
 Century.  
 Charities Review.  
 Chatterbox.  
 Chambers's Journal.  
 Chautauquan.  
 \*Chicago Banker.  
 Child Garden.  
 \*Christian Science Journal.  
 City Government.  
 Classical Review.  
 Clay Worker.  
 Commons.  
 Contemporary Review.  
 \*Cook's Excursionist.  
 Cosmopolitan.  
 Critic.  
 Cumulative Index.  
 Current Literature.  
 Delineator.  
 Demorest's Family Magazine.
- Deutsche Rundschau.  
 Eclectic Magazine.  
 Education.  
 Educational Review.  
 Engineering Magazine.  
 Engineers' and Power Users' Magazine.  
 English Catalogue.  
 English Illustrated Magazine.  
 Entomological News.  
 Esoteric.  
 Essex Antiquarian.  
 Etude.
- \*Faith's Record.  
 Fortnightly Review.  
 Forum.  
 Frank Leslie's Monthly.  
 Gartenlaube.  
 Gentleman's Magazine.  
 Geographical Journal.  
 Girl's Own Paper.  
 Good Health.  
 Good Housekeeping.  
 Gospel in All Lands.  
 Harper's Monthly.  
 Harper's Round Table.  
 \*Illinois Climate and Crop Service.  
 Inland Architect.  
 International Journal of Ethics.  
 International Studio.  
 Journal of Franklin Institute.  
 Journal of Society for Psychical Research.  
 Kindergarten Magazine.  
 Knowledge.  
 Ladies' Home Journal.  
 Land of Sunshine.  
 Library.  
 Library Journal.  
 \*Library News Letter.  
 Library World.  
 Lippincott.  
 Literary Era.  
 Literary News.  
 Little Folks.  
 \*Locomotive Firemen's Magazine.  
 McClure's Magazine.  
 MacMillan's Magazine.  
 Magazine of Art.  
 Mayflower.  
 Mechanic Arts Magazine.  
 \*Memphis Medical Monthly.  
 \*Michigan Alumnus.  
 Missionary Review of the World.  
 Monde Moderne.  
 \*Monthly Summary of Finance.  
 \*Monthly Weather Review.  
 Municipal Affairs.

## LIST OF PERIODICALS TAKEN—CONTINUED.

- Municipal Engineering.  
 Munsey's Magazine.  
 Music.  
 Musical Record.  
 Musical Times.  
 \*National Single Taxer.  
 National Builder.  
 New England Magazine.  
 \*New York Public Library Bulletin.  
 Nineteenth Century.  
 North American Review.  
 Open Court.  
 Our Dumb Animals.  
 Outing.  
 Overland.  
 Pall Mall.  
 \*Paradise of the Pacific.  
 Petermann's Mittheilungen.  
 Phonographic World.  
 Phrenological Journal.  
 Physical Review.  
 Popular Astronomy.  
 Popular Science.  
 Popular Science Monthly.  
 Poultry Monthly.  
 Progress.  
 Putnam's Historical Magazine.  
 Public Libraries.  
 \*Railroad Telegrapher.  
 \*Railroad Trainmen's Journal.  
 Review of Reviews.  
 St. Nicholas.  
 Science Gossip.  
 Scientific American, Building Edition.  
 Scribner's Magazine.  
 \*Spirit of Missions.  
 Sound Currency.  
 Teacher's Institute.  
 \*Tennessee University Magazine.  
 \*Traveler's Record.  
 \*Trader.  
 Ueber Land und Meer.  
 \*U. S. Consular Reports.  
 \*U. S. Department of Agriculture, monthly list.  
 \*U. S. Public Documents Catalogue.  
 Universal Brotherhood.  
 Velhagen und Klasing.  
 Werner's Magazine.  
 Westermanns.  
 Westminster Review.  
 Whist.  
 Wilson's Photographic Magazine.  
 Work.  
 Writer.
- Bi-Monthlies.**
- American Antiquarian.  
 American Journal of Psychology.  
 American Journal of Sociology.  
 Annals of American Academy of Political and Social Science.  
 Journal of Geology.  
 Modern Language Association Publications.  
 Philosophical Review.  
 Psychological Review.  
 \*U. S. Labor Bulletin.
- Quarterlies.**
- American Anthropologist.  
 Am. Catholic Historical Researches.  
 Am. Geographical Society Bulletin.  
 American Historical Review.  
 \*American Jewess.  
 American Journal of Archæology.  
 Architectural Record.  
 Auk.  
 Centralblatt Beihefte.  
 Current History.  
 Dublin Review.  
 Economic Journal.  
 Edinburgh Review.  
 English Historical Review.  
 Folk-Lore.  
 Journal of American Folk-Lore.  
 Journal of Pedagogy.  
 Journal of Political Economy.  
 Mind.  
 Monist.  
 Municipal Affairs.  
 New England Historical and Genealogical Record.  
 "Old Northwest" Genealogical Quarterly.  
 Pedagogical Seminary.  
 Poet Lore.  
 Political Science Quarterly.  
 Portfolio.  
 Quarterly Journal of Economics.  
 Quarterly Review.  
 Scottish Review.  
 Shoppell's Modern Houses.  
 Southern Historical Association Publications.  
 \*Tablet.  
 \*Theological Quarterly.  
 Translations and Reprints.  
 Virginia Historical Magazine.  
 \*Washington Book Chronicle.  
 Yale Review.

# STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1898-99.

## RECEIPTS.

From city appropriation .....	\$15,052.22
Desk receipts on hand June 1, 1898.....	40.42
Rent from teachers' club.....	250.00
Fines .....	527.64
Books damaged and paid for.....	11.60
Books lost and paid for .....	22.48
Extra books loaned.....	14.40
Duplicate cards issued.....	9.55
Memberships .....	19.50
Catalogues sold.....	46.00
Stationery sold .....	2.75
Waste paper sold .....	14.31
	<hr/> \$16,010.87

## EXPENDITURES.

Books .....	\$ 3,526.53
Periodicals .....	732.85
Stationery.....	237.51
Salaries .....	5,801.82
Janitor service .....	1,093.00
Binding (labor) .....	1,672.28
Binding (materials) .....	229.05
Fuel .....	407.07
Light .....	613.11
Insurance .....	180.00
Supplies .....	9.00
Expense .....	387.82
New library building .....	112.00
Furniture and fixtures .....	79.46
Improvement .....	405.64
Catalogues .....	487.67
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1899 .....	36.06
	<hr/> \$16,010.87

## MEMBERSHIPS.

Memberships in force June 1, 1898 .....	6,236
Memberships issued during the year.....	3,384
Total .....	<hr/> 9,620
Memberships expired during the year .....	3,227
Memberships in force May 31, 1899.....	<hr/> 6,393



## CONTENTS OF LIBRARY.

June 1, 1898—

Books in circulation.....	61,495 vols.	
Duplicates not in use.....		2,147 vols.
Unbound pamphlets (estimated) .....		3,419 "

Losses—

Lost and paid for.....	21 vols.	
Worn out and withdrawn .....	1,272 "	
Duplicates returned to government....	26 "	
Old newspapers sold.....	100 "	
Total losses .....	1,419 vols.	
	60,076 vols.	

Additions—

By purchase.....	3,459 vols.	
By donation.....	438 "	
By periodicals bound .....	453 "	
Total additions.....	4,350 vols.	
Total books in circulation.....		64,426 vols.
Duplicates not in use.....	2,172 vols.	
Pamphlets (estimated).....	3,719 "	
		5,891 vols.
Total contents May 31, 1899.....		70,317 vols.

Number of periodicals taken and always accessible in the reading room—

Dailies.....	12
Weeklies. ....	50
Bi-weeklies .....	9
Monthlies .....	161
Bi-monthlies .....	8
Quarterlies .....	34
	274
Duplicates in circulation.....	38
Total .....	312

## NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED.

Per cent.

Philosophy .....	1,752	1.14
Theology .....	1,407	.92
Social and political science.....	1,952	1.28
Natural science and useful arts.....	8,149	5.33
Fine arts, poetry and music .....	4,635	3.03
Fiction .....	68,659	44.88
Juvenile fiction.....	37,943	24.80
Literary miscellany .....	4,384	2.87
History and travel .....	17,839	11.66
Cyclopædias and periodicals.....	6,262	4.09
	152,982	100.00

Of the above were issued at the library .....	138,198
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ schools .....	14,784

152,982

Highest issue on any week day during 1898-9 .....	Feb. 11, 1899, 1,139 vols.
Lowest “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ .....	Oct. 25, 1898, 207 “

## DELINQUENTS.

Books kept overtime during the year .....	17,195
Number of fine notices sent .....	1,477
“ “ notices to guarantors .....	26
“ “ “ for books reserved .....	997

## SCHOOL ISSUE.

	Garfield	Douglas	Whittier	Sumner	Blaine	Webster	Lee	Total
Literature .....	565	209	268	62	34	32	53	1,223
Science, art, religion .....	1,138	340	169	323	150	100	67	2,287
History, biography, travel ..	1,787	1,067	869	676	835	398	201	5,833
Fiction, fairy tales, legends ..	1,325	1,328	818	762	564	380	264	5,441
Total .....	4,815	2,944	2,124	1,823	1,583	910	585	14,784

The following tables show the number of volumes in each class June 1, 1898, the losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents of the Library May 31, 1899.

	Total vols. in Library May 31, 1898	Lost and paid for	Worn out and withdrawn	Balance	No. volumes added 1898-9	Total vols. in Library May 31, 1899	
						No.	Per cent.
Philosophy .....	934	....	1	933	74	1,007	1.56
Theology .....	2,399	....	....	2,399	96	2,495	3.87
Social and political sciences ..	8,240	....	27	8,213	398	8,611	13.37
Natural sciences and useful arts	7,054	1	2	7,051	359	7,410	11.50
Fine arts and poetry .....	3,851	....	6	3,845	139	3,984	6.18
Vocal and instrumental music ..	316	1	....	315	41	356	.55
Fiction .....	9,443	14	705	8,724	885	9,609	14.92
Juvenile literature .....	6,158	2	513	5,643	1,208	6,851	10.63
Literary miscellany .....	4,721	....	32	4,689	213	4,902	7.61
History and travel .....	11,558	2	11	11,545	559	12,104	18.79
Cyclopædias and periodicals ..	6,821	1	101	6,719	378	7,097	11.02
Total .....	6,1495	21	1,398	60,076	4,350	64,426	100.00

# VOLUMES ISSUED FROM EACH CLASS, 1880-1899.

	1881	1881-82	1882-83	1883-84	1884-85	1885-86	1886-87	1887-88	1888-89	1889-90	1890-91	1891-92	1892-93	1893-94	1894-95	1895-96	1896-97	1897-98	1898-99
Philosophy.....	40	180	222	251	328	416	414	220	324	320	594	681	828	749	894	1,213	1,071	1,728	1,752
Theology.....	71	268	388	528	572	614	531	466	664	763	990	968	955	1,302	1,174	1,396	1,312	1,734	1,407
Natural science, useful arts.....	88	308	438	642	698	773	872	577	677	870	1,273	1,375	1,564	1,553	1,867	1,742	2,202	2,370	1,952
Fine arts, poetry and music.....	497	1,647	1,602	2,001	2,538	2,540	2,641	1,775	2,191	8,293	4,408	3,709	4,420	5,831	5,786	6,774	6,372	10,212	8,149
Fiction.....	268	1,077	1,408	1,431	1,431	1,262	1,314	1,015	1,407	1,963	2,427	2,643	3,306	3,599	3,044	3,773	3,848	5,217	4,635
Juvenile fiction.....	4,589	22,761	36,352	43,403	43,302	43,602	39,955	28,376	36,698	43,015	30,953	42,046	43,700	53,312	62,304	61,566	64,377	63,107	63,059
Literary miscellany.....	3,727	14,506	17,236	19,687	23,569	27,941	21,257	19,643	23,636	23,419	22,092	22,931	22,464	30,150	35,321	34,306	33,680	37,782	37,948
History and travel.....	1,748	2,213	1,735	1,993	1,765	1,905	2,066	1,599	1,632	2,427	3,250	3,370	4,039	4,044	4,323	5,100	4,083	6,115	4,384
Cyclopaedias and periodicals.....	1,633	4,377	3,697	5,622	5,651	5,943	6,041	4,060	5,122	6,445	8,508	8,713	10,049	13,441	14,144	17,651	15,139	20,445	17,589
Total.....	11,937	48,703	65,690	78,914	84,052	87,240	77,738	54,849	79,572	86,892	86,137	89,644	96,382	119,360	136,083	139,365	133,464	161,007	152,982

# PERCENTAGE OF ISSUE FROM EACH CLASS, 1880-1899.

	1881	1881-82	1882-83	1883-84	1884-85	1885-86	1886-87	1887-88	1888-89	1889-90	1890-91	1891-92	1892-93	1893-94	1894-95	1895-96	1896-97	1897-98	1898-99
Philosophy.....	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.76	0.86	0.63	0.66	0.87	0.77	1.07	1.14
Theology.....	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.10	0.89	1.09	0.86	1.00	0.95	1.08	0.92
Natural science, useful arts.....	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.51	1.62	1.55	1.37	1.24	1.59	1.47	1.28
Fine arts, poetry and music.....	3.6	3.4	2.5	2.6	3.0	2.9	3.4	3.2	2.8	3.6	5.1	4.14	4.59	4.68	4.25	4.86	4.60	6.34	5.33
Fiction.....	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.9	1.8	2.2	2.8	2.95	3.43	3.00	2.90	2.70	2.78	3.24	3.03
Juvenile fiction.....	38.1	48.7	55.7	53.6	51.5	49.9	51.4	48.1	46.0	47.8	46.4	46.90	45.34	44.48	45.85	44.11	46.49	42.30	44.88
Literary miscellany.....	31.2	29.8	26.2	23.0	30.4	32.2	27.3	30.3	38.0	31.6	25.6	25.58	23.80	25.15	26.08	24.58	24.33	23.47	24.80
History and travel.....	0.3	4.5	2.7	2.5	2.1	2.1	2.7	2.8	2.1	2.7	3.8	3.76	4.24	3.87	3.55	3.66	3.88	3.80	2.87
Cyclopaedias and periodicals.....	14.1	9.0	5.6	7.1	6.7	6.8	7.8	7.4	6.4	7.2	9.9	9.72	11.05	11.21	10.39	12.65	10.94	12.70	11.66
Total.....	2.5	2.8	3.7	2.4	2.7	2.6	3.3	4.0	2.9	2.7	3.1	3.58	4.58	4.36	4.14	4.33	4.17	4.53	4.09



THE  
TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND THE  
Forty-third Annual Report since its Organization  
as the Peoria City Library.

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PEORIA, ILLINOIS

For the Year Ending May 31, 1900

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# **DIRECTORS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY FROM ITS ORIGIN, APRIL, 1880.**

John S. Lee.....	1880 to 1889
James C. Dolan.....	1880 " 1894
Mathew Henebery.....	1880 " 1894
Bernard Cremer.....	1880 " date
Henry Ullman.....	1880 " 1898
Austin F. Johnson.....	1880 " 1884
J. M. Hutchinson.....	1880 " 1884
Chas. B. Allaire.....	1880 " 1883
Geo. B. Foster.....	1880 " 1886
James Millard.....	1884 " 1886
Matthew Griswold.....	1884 " 1886
Robert C. Grier.....	1884 " date
Henry W. Wells.....	1886 " date
Dan F. Raum.....	1886 " 1889
Thos. B. Burnett.....	1889 " 1890
Geo. B. Foster.....	1889 " 1892
Thos. M. McIlvaine.....	1890 " date
Edward Hine.....	1892 " 1895
Chas. R. Vandervort.....	1894 " date
Frank Meyer.....	1894 " 1897
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1895 " 1898
Mark W. Goss.....	1896 " 1897
Samuel D. Wead.....	1897 " 1900
James P. Nailon.....	1897 " 1900
N. E. Worthington.....	1898 " date
Max Newman.....	1898 " 1899
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1899 " date
John E. Keene.....	1900
James M. Quinn.....	1900

## **POPULATION OF THE CITY OF PEORIA.**

According to the census of 1900 .....	56,100
Increased by annexation since the close of our library year,	
West Peoria .....	1,799
South Peoria.....	2,711
	<hr/>
	4,510
	<hr/>
Total population, library year 1899-1900.....	51,590

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1900-1901.

BERNARD CREMER, German-American National Bank....	Term expires	1901
HENRY W. WELLS, 325 Main Street.....	" "	1901
NICHOLAS E. WORTHINGTON, Circuit Court, Court House..	" "	1901
ROBERT C. GRIER, Chamber of Commerce.....	" "	1902
CHARLES R. VANDERVORT, 519 N. Jefferson Ave.....	" "	1902
LEONARD F. HOUGHTON, Peoria National Bank.....	" "	1902
THOMAS M. MCILVAINE, 516 Main Street.....	" "	1903
JOHN E. KEENE, 301 South Jefferson Ave.....	" "	1903
JAMES M. QUINN, Chamber of Commerce.....	" "	1903

## OFFICERS.

R. C. GRIER.....	<i>President</i>
H. W. WELLS.....	<i>Vice-President</i>
B. CREMER.....	<i>Secretary</i>

## STANDING COMMITTEES.

*Finance and Auditing*—Houghton, Cremer, Quinn.

*Books*—Wells, Vandervort, Worthington.

*Executive*—Grier (*ex-officio*), McIlvaine, Keene.

## LIBRARY SERVICE.

E. S. WILLCOX—*Librarian*.

*Assistants:*

ELIZABETH T. ELLIS—*Reference Librarian*.

ANNA L. ARCHER—*Cataloguer*.

John M. Youngman,  
Harold H. Willcox,  
Helen M. Ballard,

Louise L. Booth,  
Fred J. Huenken,  
Elizabeth Bontjes.

*In the Bindery:*

Richard J. Cross,

Ruth McKenzie,

Rachel Garrabrant,

Edith A. Quinn,

Margaret A. Theena.

*Evening Attendant*—Samuel W. Dodge.

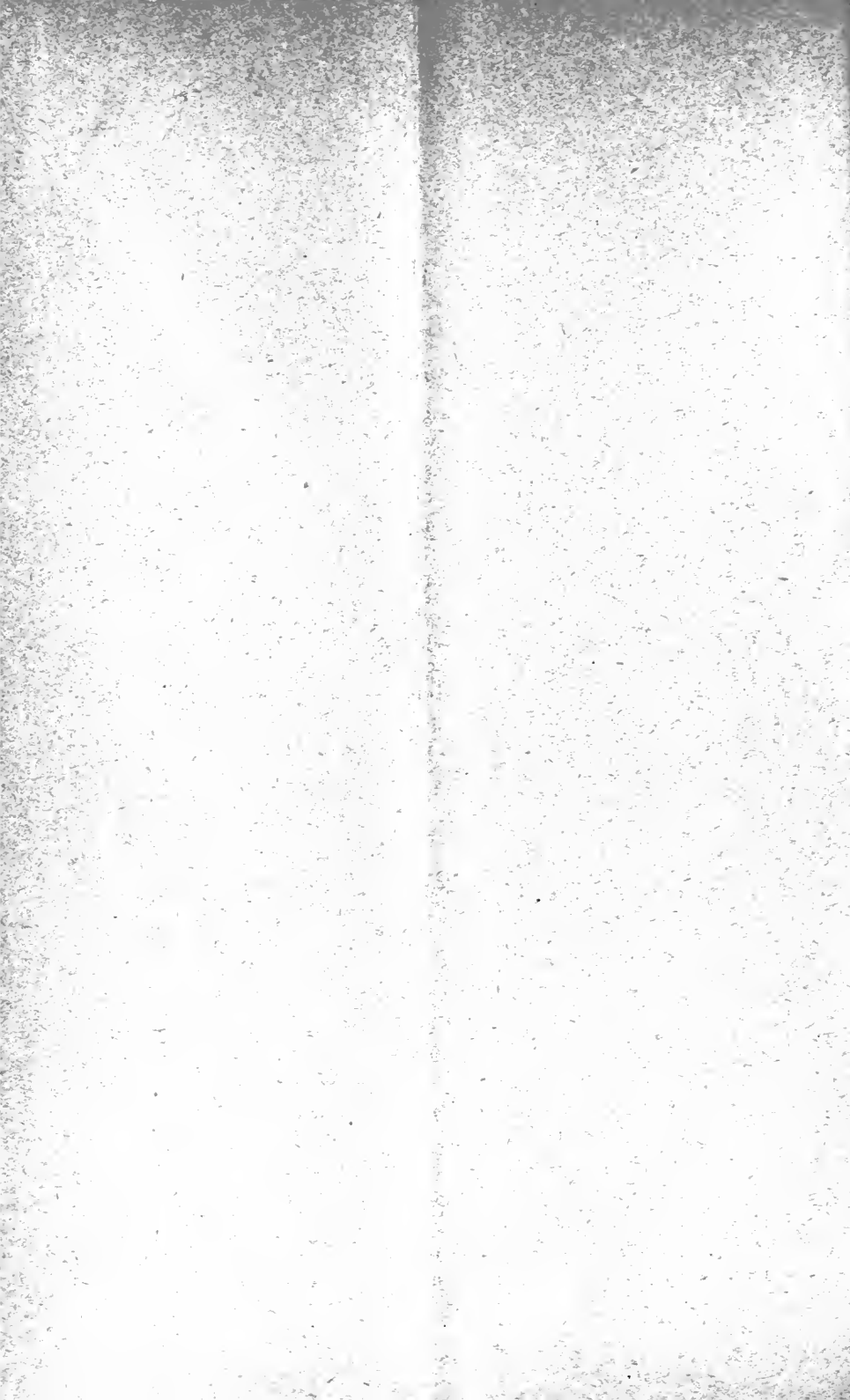
*Engineer*—John J. Steiger.

*Janitress*—Mrs. Mary E. Theena.

The Library is open for the delivery of books, except on Sundays and holidays, from 9 A. M. until 8 P. M.; on Saturdays until 9 P. M.

Reading room open from 9 A. M. until 9 P. M.; on Sundays from 2 P. M. until 6 P. M.

p. Peoria (Ill.) - Public Library.





## Report of the Directors.

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*To the Honorable Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Peoria:*

As required by statute we submit the annual report of the Peoria Public Library for the year ending May 31st, 1900.

The year in review shows increasing interest on the part of our citizens and a greater disposition to enjoy the benefits so liberally provided by our Public Library. We hope for still better appreciation and think the prospects are favorable. We endeavor to be up to date, and during the year have liberalized somewhat the methods of administration.

The report of the librarian, as you will note, gives statistical statements covering all the activities of the library during the year. We ask your perusal of the report confident it will be found interesting and instructive.

Respectfully,

R. C. GRIER, *President.*

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## Report of the Librarian.

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*To the Board of Directors of the Peoria Public Library:*

GENTLEMEN:—Herewith I beg leave to present my report for the year ending May 31, 1900—the 20th annual report of the Peoria Public Library and the 43d annual report of the same library since its origin as the Peoria City Library in 1855.

Our statistics for the year, which will be found tabulated at the end of this report, show a healthy growth during the last twelve months, in the number of volumes added, in the membership and in the circulation.

The number of volumes added during the year was 4,400 which, after deducting 8 volumes lost and paid for and 673,

mostly fiction, worn out and discarded, brings the total number of books in active circulation at the end of the year up to 68,145. If to this amount we add duplicates not in circulation and pamphlets not yet catalogued, we have a grand total of 74,361, giving our library a rank well up among large public libraries.

Our membership has grown from 6,393 one year ago to 7,065, a gain of 672 in the year, and as memberships with us run for two years only and then expire or are renewed, we may consider the 7,065 as active members, the largest number in our history.

Our home circulation for the year was 167,951, an increase of 14,969 over that of the previous year and again the largest ever yet attained. Of this issue 120,119 or  $71\frac{52}{100}$  per cent. were fiction, adult and juvenile—a slight increase over that of last year, and 47,832 or  $28\frac{48}{100}$  per cent. were non fiction—history, biography, science, art, literary miscellany, etc. Since no one sits down to read a novel in the library the fiction issued represents the extent of novel reading by our members, but the 47,832 volumes of more instructive works do not by any means represent all that the library does in the way of furnishing that class of reading matter; for the study, consulting and reference work done in the library itself, with books not issued beyond the room and of which no record is kept, must be counted in as a large item.

It may not be uninteresting to compare the work we are now doing with that done by the Mercantile Library before we had a free public library. We had a membership of 275 at \$4.00 a year, and from a library of about 12,000 volumes issued 7,500 a year. Our membership is now 7,065 and our last year's issues 169,951. Of our issues then, 5,250 were fiction and 2,250, books of a more informing character. Compare this 2,250 of instructive books with the 47,832 issued last year and we can form some estimate of what the free public library does in the way of spreading general intelligence among our people.

As a help in circulating good reading among families we must count the selected libraries placed each autumn in eight of our public schools farthest removed from the central library. While we have as yet no branch libraries or delivery stations such as from the rapid extension of our city limits, will be required in the not distant future, these school libraries of from

200 to 400 volumes each, serve the purpose of branch libraries very satisfactorily. Our circulation through these eight schools in the outskirts of the city was, according to classification, as follows, viz:

Literature.....	960 vols.
Science, art, religion .....	2634 "
History, biography, travel.....	6191 "
Fiction, fairy tales, legends.....	6176 "
A total of .....	15961 "

If we once more compare figures, this alone is more than twice as many volumes as were ever drawn by the entire city in the subscription library days, and to families that probably in those days never patronized that library at all.

The enormous extent to which the circulation of books through the agency of the free public library has grown of late years is something astonishing, and that it will have the effect of raising the general level of intelligence and refinement among those classes who would otherwise have small opportunity for self culture, cannot be doubted.

At the Boston public library the home issue of books last year was 1,245,842 volumes, or  $2\frac{1}{4}$  to each inhabitant. In Chicago, the home issue was 1,749,775, or one volume to each inhabitant, and in Peoria, as has been stated, the home issue was 167,951. This looks small when compared with the flood at Boston and Chicago, but, in proportion to the population is much larger, viz.  $3\frac{1}{4}$  volumes at a cost of  $30\frac{1}{2}$  cents to each inhabitant, and at a total cost for each volume issued, of  $9\frac{3}{8}$  cents.

### CATALOGUES.

On the first of January of this year we issued in a neat, octavo form of 48 pages a complete catalogue of the German books in our library, some 4,411 volumes—a catalogue that has long been waited for by our German readers. We now have complete printed catalogues in the best of type and paper of all the books in our library up to the following dates; a classified catalogue to January 1, 1899, a Fiction List with Supplement to April 1, 1899 and a German Catalogue to January 1, 1900, but completest of all is our dictionary card catalogue, author, title

and subject, kept strictly up to date, a catalogue of all our books placed directly before our public in the reading room.

### THE BINDERY.

In our bindery we have kept steadily employed the same force as last year—one foreman and four young women. The total number of books bound, rebound and repaired, not counting much miscellaneous work, was 8,066.

### THIRD STORY OF BOOK SHELVES.

Of the five stories in our stack room only two were fitted up with shelving when we took possession of the new building, February, 1897. The rapid growth of the library made it necessary this year to add another story of book cases, the third, which has just been completed in a satisfactory manner by A. Lucas & Sons of this city, with iron uprights in the style of the first and second stories and at a cost of \$1251.15. This will give us additional accommodations for more than 30,000 volumes. At the same time a book lift, now become necessary, running from bottom to top of the stack room, was put in by the same firm at a cost of \$62.50. There remain the fourth and fifth stories of our stack room yet to be furnished with shelving when needed.

### INVENTORY.

Our inventory taken in May of this year shows 143 volumes missing since the last previous inventory three years ago.

The following table shows the character and number of losses at three different inventories:

Class	1889	1897	1900
2— 5 Philosophy, ethics.....		4	2
6— 16 Religion.....	2	1	2
17— 34 Social and political sciences .....	31	7	5
35— 63 Natural sciences and useful arts.....	33	26	5
64— 68 Fine arts, poetry .....	24	14	3
69 Adult fiction.....	211	77	43
70 Juvenile literature.....	192	65	63
71— 78 Literary miscellany.....	38	16	3
79— 97 Travels, history, biography.....	59	22	14
98—100 Cyclopædias, periodicals.....	36	9	3
Total.....	626	241	143

The abnormally large loss shown in 1889 is explained by the fire in the library in 1888. Losses between 1889 and 1897, 8 years, averaged 30 a year, between 1897 and 1900, 47 a year. This is too much.

When we took possession of the new library building in 1897 we placed some 800 volumes of selected juvenile literature, history, biography, travels, science, etc., not fiction, on open shelves in front of the reference desk in that part of the reading room set apart for the young people. This was done in order to encourage the reading of something besides stories. It is from these open shelves that 49 of the 143 missing books were taken.

The mutilation and theft of periodicals in our reading room is another serious annoyance. Three pictures were cut out of Harper's Weekly of September 17, 1898, two articles were cut out of Scribner's Magazine of September 1898, two recipes were cut out of Good Housekeeping for July, 1899, a picture was cut out of Munsey's Magazine for January 1900, a corset advertisement was cut out of the Ladies' Home Journal for April, 1900, a poem out of the N. E. Magazine for August, 1900 and the following magazines were carried off bodily, viz: St. Nicholas of December, 1898, Munsey of February, 1900, the Pall Mall Magazine of June, 1900 and the Boys' Own Paper of August, 1900. Every one of these periodicals so stolen or mutilated has to be replaced by us in order to keep our files complete. Cases of this sort, it is true, considering the number of visitors in the library, are not many, but they are mean.

In January of this year the experiment was thought worth trying of placing one thousand new and attractive books on open shelves near the delivery desk, where the public could examine them without restrictions of any kind except such general watchfulness as our near by assistants could give. Above them was placed a large printed notice: "These books must not be taken from the room until charged at the desk." From these open shelves in the space of five months six new and valuable books had been stolen at the date of our inventory, and are still missing. Since taking the inventory a still more flagrant case of theft came to light, and, with the help of city detectives, the following fourteen books were recovered, all taken from the open shelves by one person in two weeks:

Joy's Twenty centuries of English history.  
Hueppe's Principles of bacteriology.  
Judson's Growth of the American nation.  
Colby's Outlines of general history.  
Herron's Call of the cross.  
Ames' Standard Whist for beginners.  
Bardeen's Authors' birthdays, 1st and 2d series.  
Pearson's Grammar of science.  
Brooke's English literature.  
Creighton's Introductory logic.  
Cragin's Our insect friends and foes.  
Sedgwick's Thomas Paine.  
Thomson's Science of life.

The thief was a young man some twenty-two years old, who had lately come here from a neighboring State. According to his story he had been two years at a normal school and had taught school three years, but had had some difficulty and was now quite run down at the heel; was working for two dollars a week and his board, in a foundry, coming to the library in overalls, and had the commendable design of fitting himself for the Johns Hopkins University some day. He certainly showed a devouring appetite for books. A library like ours, with a thousand new books within reach of his fingers, was evidently a joy to him like that Columbus felt when he discovered America. When arrested, just as he was leaving town, he attempted no concealment, confessed everything, did not know how he came to do such a thing, took them at first one or two at a time, intending to return them, until he found he had so many he began to be uneasy lest his landlady should ask him questions. He then left them in small bundles away from his boarding house, to be called for, and prepared to leave town without them. The judge sentenced him to a \$50 fine and six months at hard labor in the workhouse, but mercifully suspended judgment during good behavior. I confess I pitied the poor fellow in his overalls. He seemed all broken up over it, and he showed such good taste in his choice of books, but the newspaper reporters, who are more familiar with police courts than I am, called him a crank. I do not know precisely what that is, but I don't believe it—he was only a book thief. A few days later two large books—Inman's Santa Fé Trail and a Dumas novel, *The Last Vendée*—taken from the open shelves without being charged, were found

in the trunk of a plausible gentleman who had left town under a cloud. And not long ago a friend of mine noticed in the house of, as he avers, a highly respectable gentleman here, copies of Persius and Juvenal that belonged to the public library. On remarking to this admirer of the ancient classics that they were library books, the unblushing reply was: "Yes, I know, I have had them here for three years."

It is a deplorable thing that such petty thieving should go on in a library where we are compelled to throw ourselves more or less on the honor and honesty of our visitors; and it is experiences such as these, which I have gone into with some detail, that justify a public library in taking precautions to guard its treasures from wanton pillage by that small, sneaking class in every city who are unable to resist the temptation to steal attractive, portable property as chance offers; who are known in dry goods stores as shoplifters, and in the police courts as thieves.

From our large reference books on open shelves in the reading room, we suffer no losses that have been detected. It is the smaller, newer books, easily concealed and not distinguishable from the multitude of similar books taken out at the desk in the regular way, that offer temptation to petty theft.

### GIFTS.

From other libraries, public institutions and individuals we receive many reports, pamphlets and books, which are duly acknowledged at the time. Among gifts of special value received during the year are the following:

From L. E. Gann, Mayor's address and annual reports, Department of public works, Chicago. 3 vols.

R. Williams, Streator, History of La Salle County, Ill., by Baldwin. 2 vols. 2 copies.

Rev. W. H. Roberts, Philadelphia, Presbyterian Church in the United States. 26 vols.

J. J. Lytle, Philadelphia, Journal of prison discipline. 14 vols.

F. O. Cunningham, Peoria, Fleming and Tibbins, Royal dictionary, English-French, French-English. 2 vols. quarto.

Michigan State Board of Health. 32 vols., 22 pamphlets.

N. C. Dougherty, Educational reports. 27 vols.

Mrs. A. L. Schimpff, Peoria, German novels. 13 vols.

Estate of Dr. J. N. Niglas, Peoria, Old German medical works. 110 vols.

J. B. Barnes, Peoria, large wall map.

Evening Journal, printing our quarterly list of new books, and from the daily papers of our city, two copies of each issue regularly.

In closing this 20th annual report it is gratifying to be able to note that the Peoria Public Library gains from year to year a firmer hold on the really affectionate appreciation of our people; and it should, for among the many beneficent institutions of our day I doubt if there be one that does more good to a greater number, old and young, rich and poor, than a well conducted free public library. But there is one cause for self-congratulation, almost peculiar to our city, which I cannot refrain from mentioning here since, occupying a position that brings it more immediately to my attention, it would not be generally known if I did not speak of it. We receive regularly the annual reports of some one hundred public libraries scattered over the United States, and few of them are free from a subdued undertone of "sighs, with lamentations and loud moans," over cramped and inadequate accommodations and lack of sufficient income, while some of our larger cities are burdened with an annual interest charge on bonded indebtedness for their monumental library edifices, of one, two and three million dollars, which must be, at least indirectly, a drag upon their library resources.

This, fortunately, is not our case. Mr. W. E. Foster of the Providence, R. I., public library, in his latest annual report says, and says feelingly: "The maximum of favorable conditions for "a large and general use of a library's resources will be found "when its funds enable it to respond with promptness and elasticity to the various legitimate demands upon it for the purchase of needed books; when it is able to place promptly upon "its shelves, in permanent binding, the completed volumes of the "various periodicals and serials in which alone so much of the "most systematic study of modern times is adequately provided "for; when it is able to keep well abreast of the ever-increasing "wear and tear of its books, by rebinding them or purchasing "new copies; when its funds for cataloguing purposes enable the "reader to keep constantly up to date in his knowledge of its "resources; when a library force is supplied which is adequate to "prevent delays at the delivery counter and in the routine of "cataloguing; and when it is housed in a suitable and convenient "building. Such an ideal state has never been the fortune of "this library."

But it is our good fortune in Peoria. Our fine library building and ample grounds are entirely paid for. Not a dollar of



indebtedness, bonds or cash, was ever charged up against them on the great ledger of our city. Our library of over 70,000 volumes counts among the large libraries of the country, and we have ample book room for 200,000 volumes—the accumulations of the next twenty-five years. At small cost our stack room can be extended at the rear to give our grandchildren room for its growth for fifty years more; and, thanks to a public-spirited and generous city council, we are granted each year, and cheerfully, all the appropriation our needs demand. Our city is an object of envy to her sister cities of the United States.

To our assistants in the library and in the bindery I desire to make public acknowledgment for faithful work performed, and for the always pleasant and harmonious relations they have maintained with one another and with our public.

My thanks are due to you, gentlemen of the Board of Directors, for your continued confidence; for your wise administration of this important public trust the people of Peoria owe you still greater thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

E. S. WILLCOX, *Librarian*.

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## STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1899-1900.

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### RECEIPTS.

From city appropriation.....	\$14,678.52
Desk receipts on hand June 1, 1899.....	36.06
Rent.....	400.00
Fines.....	550.00
Books damaged and paid for.....	8.60
Books lost and paid for.....	6.85
Books sold.....	4.90
Extra books loaned.....	19.50
Duplicate cards issued.....	17.80
Memberships.....	18.75
Catalogues sold.....	58.45
Waste paper sold.....	7.18
	<hr/> \$15,807.21

## EXPENDITURES.

Books .....	\$ 3,565.66
Periodicals .....	726.18
Stationery .....	210.88
Salaries .....	5,655.50
Janitor service .....	1,080.00
Binding (labor) .....	1,883.58
Binding (materials) .....	310.07
Fuel .....	356.96
Light .....	680.93
Insurance .....	468.00
Expense .....	484.66
Furniture and fixtures .....	79.65
Improvement .....	165.00
German catalogue .....	102.90
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1900 .....	37.24
	<hr/> \$15,807.21

## MEMBERSHIPS.

Memberships in force June 1, 1899 .....	6,393
Memberships issued during the year .....	3,681
Total .....	<hr/> 10,074
Memberships expired during the year .....	3,009
Memberships in force May 31, 1900 .....	<hr/> 7,065

## CONTENTS OF LIBRARY.

June 1, 1899—		
Books in circulation .....	64,426 vols.	
Duplicates not in use .....		2,172 vols.
Unbound pamphlets (estimated) .....		3,719 “
Losses—		
Lost and paid for .....	8 vols.	
Worn out and withdrawn .....	673 “	
Total losses .....		<hr/> 681 vols.
		<hr/> 63,745 vols.
Additions—		
By purchase .....	3,317 vols.	
By donation .....	627 “	
By periodicals bound .....	456 “	
Total additions .....		<hr/> 4,400 vols.
Total books in circulation .....		<hr/> 68,145 vols.
Duplicates not in use .....	2,197 vols.	
Pamphlets (estimated) .....	4,019 “	6,216 vols.
Total contents May 31, 1900 .....		<hr/> 74,361 vols.







STATE OF ILLINOIS, }  
COUNTY OF PEORIA. }

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of June, A. D. 1900, by  
E. S. WILLCOX, Librarian. LEWIS B. HOWE, *Notary Public*.

THE

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

AND THE

Forty-fourth Annual Report since its Organization  
as the Peoria City Library.

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PEORIA, ILLINOIS

For the Year Ending May 31, 1901.

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EDWARD HINE & CO., PRINTERS

# **DIRECTORS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY** **FROM ITS ORIGIN, APRIL, 1880.**

John S. Lee .....	1880 to 1889
James C. Dolan.....	1880 " 1894
Mathew Henebery.....	1880 " 1894
Bernard Cremer.....	1880 " date
Henry Ullman.....	1880 " 1898
Austin F. Johnson.....	1880 " 1884
J. M. Hutchinson .....	1880 " 1884
Chas. B. Allaire.....	1880 " 1883
Geo. B. Foster.....	1880 " 1886
James Millard.....	1884 " 1886
Matthew Griswold.....	1884 " 1886
Robert C. Grier.....	1884 " date
Henry W. Wells .....	1886 " date
Dan F. Raum .....	1886 " 1889
Thos. F. Burnett.....	1889 " 1890
Geo. B. Foster.....	1889 " 1892
Thos. M. McIlvaine.....	1890 " date
Edward Hine.....	1892 " 1895
Chas. R. Vandervort.....	1894 " date
Frank Meyer.....	1894 " 1897
Leonard F. Houghton.....	1895 " 1898
Mark W. Goss.....	1896 " 1897
Samuel D. Wead.....	1897 " 1900
James P. Nailon.....	1897 " 1900
N. E. Worthington .....	1898 " date
Max Newman.....	1898 " 1899
Leonard F. Houghton .....	1899 " date
John E. Keene .....	1900 " date
James M. Quinn.....	1900 " date

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## **POPULATION OF THE CITY OF PEORIA.**

According to the census of 1900.....56,100



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1900-1901.

ROBERT C. GRIER, Chamber of Commerce.....	Term expires	1902
CHARLES R. VANDERVORT, 1111 N. Monroe Street .....	"	" 1902
LEONARD F. HOUGHTON, Peoria National Bank.....	"	" 1902
THOMAS M. MCILVAINE, 516 Main street.....	"	" 1903
JOHN E. KEENE, 301 South Jefferson Ave.....	"	" 1903
JAMES M. QUINN, Chamber of Commerce.....	"	" 1903
BERNARD CREMER, German-American National Bank...	"	" 1904
HENRY W. WELLS, 325 Main Street.....	"	" 1904
NICHOLAS E. WORTHINGTON, Circuit Court, Court House .	"	" 1904

## OFFICERS.

N. E. WORTHINGTON.....	<i>President</i>
T. M. MCILVAINE.....	<i>Vice-President</i>
B. CREMER .....	<i>Secretary</i>

## STANDING COMMITTEES.

*Finance and Auditing*—Houghton, Cremer, Quinn.

*Books*—Wells, Vandervort, Keene.

*Executive*—Worthington (*ex-officio*), McIlvaine, Grier.

## LIBRARY SERVICE.

E. S. WILLCOX—*Librarian*.

*Assistants:*

ELIZABETH T. ELLIS—*Reference Librarian*.

ANNA L. ARCHER—*Cataloguer*.

John M. Youngman,

Louise L. Booth,

Harold H. Willcox,\*

Fred. J. Huenken,

Helen M Ballard,

Elizabeth Bontjes.

*In the Bindery:*

Richard J. Cross,

Ruth McKenzie,

Rachel Garrabrant,

Edith A. Quinn,

Margaret A. Theena.

*Evening Attendant*—Samuel W. Dodge.

*Engineer*—John J. Steiger.

*Janitress*—Mrs. Mary E. Theena.

The Library is open for the delivery of books, except on Sundays and holidays, from 9 A. M. until 8 P. M.; on Saturdays until 9 P. M.

Reading room open from 9 A. M. until 9 P. M.; on Sundays from 2 P. M. until 6 P. M.

\*Until Sept. 1.

13258



## Report of the Directors.

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*To the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Peoria:*

In accordance with the requirement of the statute, the Directors of the Peoria Public Library herewith submit their report for the year ending May 31, 1901, adopting the extracts from the annual report of the Librarian, Mr. E. S. Willcox, as a part of their report.

The Directors recognize the binding effect of the provisions of the statute which declares that, "every library and reading room established under this Act, shall be forever free to the inhabitants of the city where located, subject to such reasonable rules and regulations as the Library Board may adopt, in order to render the use of said library and reading room of the greatest benefit to the greatest number."

With a view to securing this end, no vexatious conditions are attached to the use of the Library. No surety or guarantor is required in an application for membership. All that is necessary is that the person applying shall satisfy the Librarian that he or she is a resident of the city, and will conform to the rules and regulations adopted by the Directors.

Your Board believes that the true policy in the conduct of a library supported by general taxation, is to make its contents as open and accessible to the sight, touch and examination of the public, as is consistent with their reasonably safe preservation. In order to accomplish this, changes have been adopted and are now being put in operation, that will open to public view and examination such standard books of history, biography, travel, science, fiction and general literature as will be likely to attract general readers. New books, as purchased, will also be thus free to general inspection. It is believed by your Board that this more liberal policy will successfully invite an increased membership, and will help to make the library, as required by statute, "of the greatest use to the greatest number."

The residents of the city should be led to feel, and act upon the feeling, that the Peoria Public Library belongs to them; that it was established for their benefit; that they have in it substantial rights of use for the purposes for which it is maintained, and that these rights are to be freely enjoyed, subject only to such regulations as secure order in its rooms, and the proper care and preservation of its books.

To promote the full realization of these facts by the public, and the increased use of the Library which will follow such realization, the Board of Directors earnestly invite the co-operation of your Board and of all lovers of books and friends of education.

N. E. WORTHINGTON, *President*.

B. CREMER, *Secretary*.

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## Report of Librarian.

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### *To the Board of Directors of the Public Library:*

GENTLEMEN:—Herewith I beg leave to present the Librarian's report of the Peoria Public Library for the library year ending May 31, 1901, the 21st annual report of the Public Library and the 44th annual report of the same library since its origin as the Peoria City Library in 1855.

Our statistics for the year, which will be found tabulated at the end of this report, show a gratifying and continuous growth during the last twelve months, in the enlarged membership, in the number of volumes added and in the home circulation.

Our membership is now 7,519, an increase of 454 over that of a year ago, and one to every  $7\frac{1}{2}$  of our population.

The number of volumes added during the year was 5,000, making a total of books now in active use 72,133.

Our home circulation for the year was 174,945, an increase of 6,994 over that of the preceding year and the largest ever yet attained, an average of  $3\frac{1}{8}$  volumes to every inhabitant of the city.

Comparing these figures with those of the year 1890-91, ten years ago, our membership then was 4,549, now 7,519, a gain of 65 per cent. Our books in circulation then were 38,608 volumes, now 72,133, a gain of  $86\frac{8}{10}$  per cent., and our home circulation was 86,137, now 174,945, a gain of 103 per cent.

In that period of ten years the population of our city has increased by natural growth and by annexations from 41,024 to 56,100, or  $36\frac{3}{4}$  per cent.

Of our total issues, 124,047 volumes, or  $70\frac{9}{10}$ , were fiction, adult and juvenile— $45\frac{7}{10}$  adult, and  $25\frac{1}{10}$  juvenile—and 50,898, or  $29\frac{1}{10}$  were non-fiction, history, biography, science, art, literary miscellany, etc.

### SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

As a help in circulating good reading at home are the carefully selected libraries placed at the beginning of each school year in nine of our public schools farthest removed from the central library. So long as we have no branch libraries or delivery stations, such as from the rapid growth of our city will be required as ward libraries in the not distant future, these school libraries of from 200 to 400 volumes each, serve the purpose very well and at small cost.

Our circulation through these nine schools this last year was, according to classification, as follows, viz:

Literature .....	1,255 vols.
Science, art, religion.....	3,367 "
History, biography, travel .....	8,117 "
Fiction, fairy tales, legends.....	10,424 "
A total of.....	<u>23,163</u> "

Or  $13\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. of our total issues, and an increase over last year's school issues—15,961—of nearly 50 per cent.

### THE BINDERY.

In our bindery we have kept steadily employed our regular force, one foreman and four young women. The total number of books bound, rebound and repaired, including 2,529 repaired by desk assistants, was 6,572, as against 8,066 the year before, a falling off of 1,494 volumes, while the cost of labor has been \$68.21 greater.

**AMONG THE IMPORTANT PURCHASES DURING THE YEAR ARE:**

Brewer, World's Best Orations.....	10 vols.
Brewer, World's Best Essays.....	10 "
Reed, Modern Eloquence.....	10 "
Garnett, Universal Anthology .....	28 "
Home Study Circle Library .....	15 "
Robert Browning's Works, Camberwell Ed.....	12 "
Balzac's Novels, Centenary Ed.....	16 "
Mark Twain's Writings, Royal Ed.....	22 "
James, Naval History of Great Britain.....	6 "
Michigan Pioneer Society Collections.....	28 "
Ellis' History of the United States (for School Libraries), 12 sets, each.....	8 "
Starr, Indians of Southern Mexico.....	1 "
Lamb's Biographical Dictionary of the United States.....	4 "
Hexaglot Bible.....	6 "
Nouveau Larousse Illustré.....	4 "
Andover Review, 1884-1893.....	19 "
Cornhill Magazine, 1877-1899.....	22 "
Life, 1884-1892.....	

**GIFTS.**

From other libraries, public institutions and individuals we receive many reports, pamphlets and books which are duly acknowledged at the time. Among gifts of especial value received during the year are the following:

Taylor, Isaac.....	Chicago Drainage Canal, report of special commission.
Bash, Mrs. D. N.....	Welsh New Testament; Notes on China; General Federation of Women's Clubs, Proceedings.
Goodwin, J. J.....	Goodwins of Hartford, Conn.
Kansas State Historical Society,	Kansas Historical Collections, 3 Vols.; Six reports of Board of Directors.
Collins, H. O.....	Descendants of Robert Green; Chart of Ballance-Schnebly Family; Geneal- ogy of Washington Family.
Hovey, H. C.....	Daniel Hovey of Ipswich.
Murray, Mrs. W. T.....	Atlantic, 9 Vols. complete; Arena, 2 Vols. complete; odd numbers of Atlantic, Arena, North American, Scribner, and Century.
Farrell, C. P.....	Ingersoll's Works, Dresden Ed., 12 Vols.

- Sipton, Hon. Clifford.....Atlas of West Canada.  
 Field, Marshall.....Field Genealogy by Pierce, 2 Vols.  
 Hiatt, C. W .....Sermons.  
 Franks & Sons .....Chicago City Directory, 1899.  
 Bonney, C. C .....World's Congress Addresses.  
 Barton, W. E.....Lieut. Wm. Barton and His Descendants;  
                                     Old Plantation Hymns; Cumberland  
                                     Mountains.  
 Lieut. L. J. Dawdy.....86th Ill. Vols. Society of the Army of the  
                                     Cumberland Reunion, 24 Vols.  
 Wright, Grant.....Catalogues of the New York Academy of  
                                     Design.

From the daily papers of our city, two copies of each issue regularly, from the Peoria Evening Journal, the printing of our quarterly list of new books, and from the following newspapers their regular issues:

- The Public Ledger, Philadelphia.  
 The Evening Mail, Galesburg.  
 The Montana Daily Record.  
 The Springfield, Mass., Weekly Republican.  
 The San Francisco Sunday Bulletin.

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## STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1900-1901.

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### RECEIPTS.

From city appropriation.....	\$15,290.66
Desk receipts on hand June 1, 1900.....	37.24
Reserve fund.....	513.15
Rent.....	800.00
Fines.....	604.84
Books damaged and paid for.....	14.11
Books lost and paid for.....	14.95
Books sold.....	1.00
Book bound.....	1.00
Extra books loaned.....	21.15
Duplicate cards issued.....	15.35
Reserve postal cards.....	10.00
Memberships.....	20.50
Catalogues sold.....	37.60
Waste paper sold.....	7.25
	<hr/> \$17,388.80

## EXPENDITURES.

Books .....	\$ 3,902.62
Periodicals .....	723.76
Stationery .....	247.32
Salaries .....	5,624.19
Janitor Service .....	1,080.00
Binding (labor) .....	1,951.79
Binding (materials) .....	263.29
Fuel .....	410.67
Light .....	802.65
Insurance .....	90.00
Expense .....	537.87
Furniture and fixtures .....	49.79
Improvement .....	1,631.85
Supplies .....	4.50
Catalogue, graded list for pupils .....	34.00
Desk receipts on hand May 31, 1901 .....	34.50
	<u>\$17,388.80</u>

## MEMBERSHIP.

Memberships in force June 1, 1900 .....	7,065
Memberships issued during the year, good for two years .....	3,838
Total .....	<u>10,903</u>
Memberships expired during the year .....	3,384
Memberships in force May 31, 1901 .....	<u>7,519</u>

## CONTENTS OF LIBRARY.

## June 1, 1900—

Books in circulation .....	68,145 vols.	
Duplicates not in use .....		2,197 vols.
Unbound pamphlets (estimated) .....		4,019 "

## Losses—

Lost and paid for .....	18 vols.
Worn out and withdrawn .....	<u>994 "</u>

Total losses .....

1,012 vols.

67,133 vols.

## Additions—

By purchase .....	4,019 vols.
By donation .....	536 "
By periodicals bound .....	<u>445 "</u>

Total additions .....

5,000 vols.

Total books in circulation ..		72,133 vols.
Duplicates not in use .....	2,217 vols.	
Pamphlets (estimated) .....	<u>4,561 "</u>	<u>6,778 vols.</u>

Total contents May 31, 1901.

78,911 vols.



## Number of periodicals taken and always accessible in the reading room—

Dailies .....	14
Weeklies .....	52
Bi-weeklies .....	8
Monthlies .....	163
Bi-monthlies .....	10
Quarterlies .....	40
	<hr/>
	287
Duplicates in circulation .....	39
	<hr/>
Total .....	326

## NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED.

Per Cent.

Philosophy .....	1,958	1.12
Theology .....	1,475	.84
Social and political science .....	1,761	1.01
Natural science and useful arts .....	9,874	5.65
Fine arts, poetry and music .....	4,436	2.54
Fiction .....	80,027	45.74
Juvenile fiction .....	44,020	25.16
Literary miscellany .....	6,059	3.46
History and travel .....	19,267	11.01
Cyclopædias and periodicals .....	6,068	3.47
	<hr/>	
	174,945	100.00
Of the above were issued at the library .....	151,782	
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ schools .....	23,163	
	<hr/>	
	174,945	
Highest issue on any week day during 1900-1901 .....	Feb. 23, 1901, 1,505 vols.	
Lowest “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ .....	Oct. 3, 1901, 219 “	

## DELINQUENTS.

Books kept overtime during the year .....	10,717
Number of fine notices sent .....	1,130
“ “ notices for books reserved .....	1,073

## SCHOOL ISSUE.

	Garfield	Sumner	Douglas	Lee	Webster	Blaine	Whittier	Franklin	Glen Oak	Total
Literature .....	577	145	93	115	114	47	104	58	4	1,255
Science, art, religion .....	1,179	587	344	335	293	366	96	89	78	3,367
History, biography, travel .....	2,058	830	980	1,203	661	787	994	389	215	8,117
Fiction, fairy tales .....	1,831	1,369	1,509	987	1,325	1,035	1,021	937	410	10,424
Total .....	5,645	2,931	2,926	2,640	2,393	2,235	2,215	1,471	707	23,163

The following table shows the number of volumes in each class June 1, 1900, the losses and additions during the year, together with the total contents of the Library, May 31, 1901:

	Total vols. in Library May 31, 1900	Lost and paid for.	Worn out and withdrawn	Balance	No. volumes added 1900-1901	Total volumes in Library May 31, 1901	
						No.	Per Cent.
Philosophy .....	1,065	.....	2	1,063	52	1,115	1.54
Theology .....	2,676	.....	.....	2,676	120	2,796	3.88
Social and political sciences .....	9,150	.....	.....	9,150	494	9,644	13.37
Natural sciences and useful arts .....	7,870	6	5	7,859	383	8,242	11.43
Fine arts and poetry .....	4,126	.....	3	4,123	191	4,314	5.98
Vocal and instrumental music .....	406	.....	.....	406	22	428	.59
Fiction .....	10,353	5	472	9,876	1,167	11,043	15.31
Juvenile literature .....	7,434	6	490	6,938	1,393	8,331	11.55
Literary miscellany .....	5,136	.....	11	5,125	297	5,422	7.52
History and travel .....	12,589	1	8	12,580	644	13,224	18.33
Cyclopædias and periodicals .....	7,340	.....	3	7,337	237	7,574	10.50
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>68,145</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>67,133</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>72,133</b>	<b>100.00</b>

#### CHARACTER OF ADDITIONS.

English .....	4,895
German .....	60
French .....	22
Welsh .....	1
Vocal and instrumental music .....	22

**Total** ..... 5,000

Purchased .....	4,019
Donations catalogued .....	536
Periodicals bound .....	445

**Total** ..... 5,000

#### BINDERY.

Books bound .....	720
Newspapers bound .....	25
Books rebound .....	2,313
Books repaired .....	936
Portfolios made .....	49

**Total** ..... 4,043

## SIZES.

32°	24°	16°	12°	8°	4°	f°	
7	74	566	1,391	713	151	156	.... 3,058
Portfolios and books repaired, miscellaneous sizes .....							985

Total ..... 4,043

Books repaired by desk assistant..... 2,529

Total ..... 6,572

Peoria Public Library catalogues bound in paper..... 250

Current periodicals covered..... 422

Members' cards folded and pasted ..... 8,700

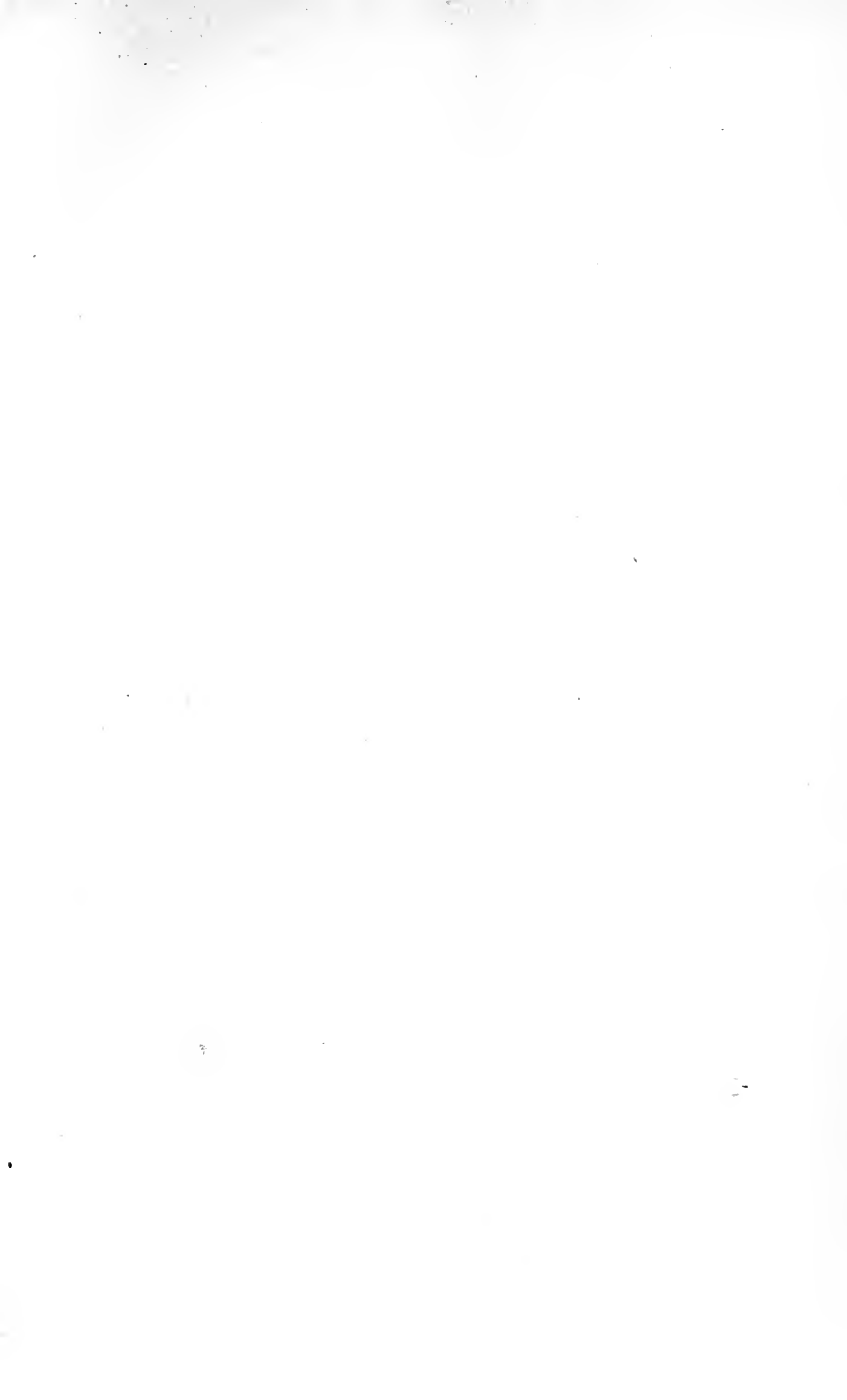
Canvas covers for dictionaries..... 2



STATE OF ILLINOIS, }  
COUNTY OF PEORIA. } ss.

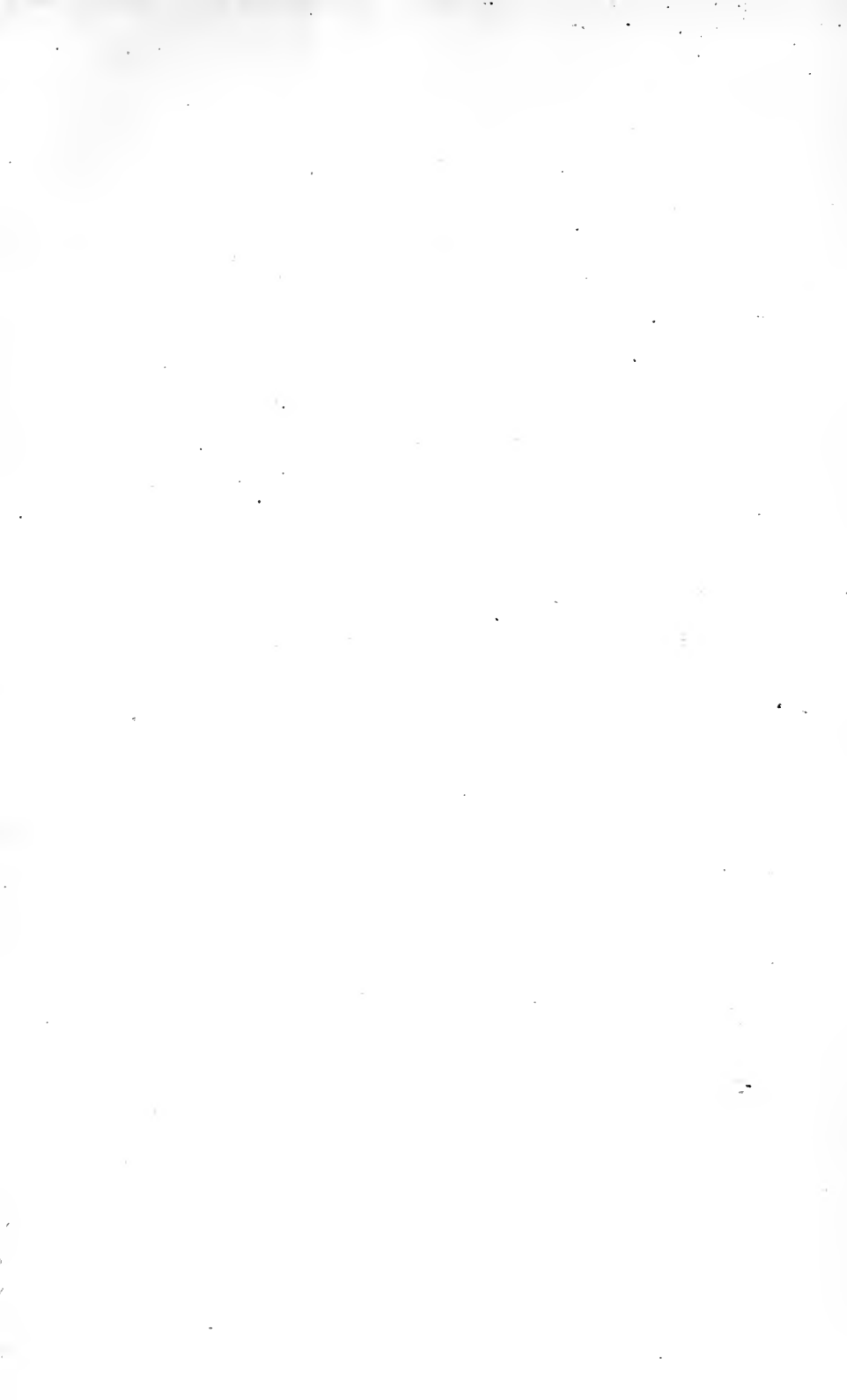
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31st day of October, A. D. 1901, by  
E. S. WILLCOX, Librarian. LEWIS B. HOWE, *Notary Public*.





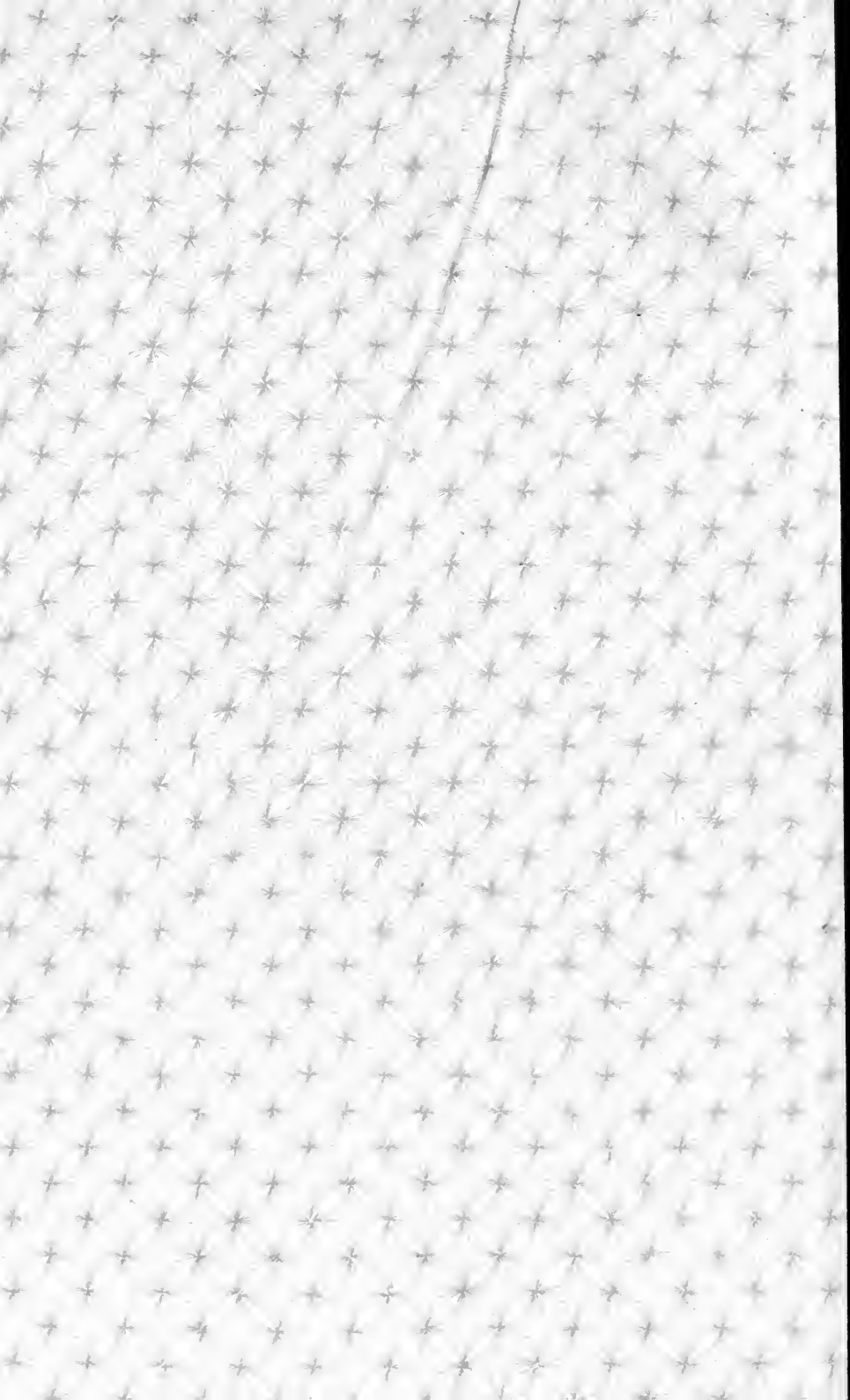


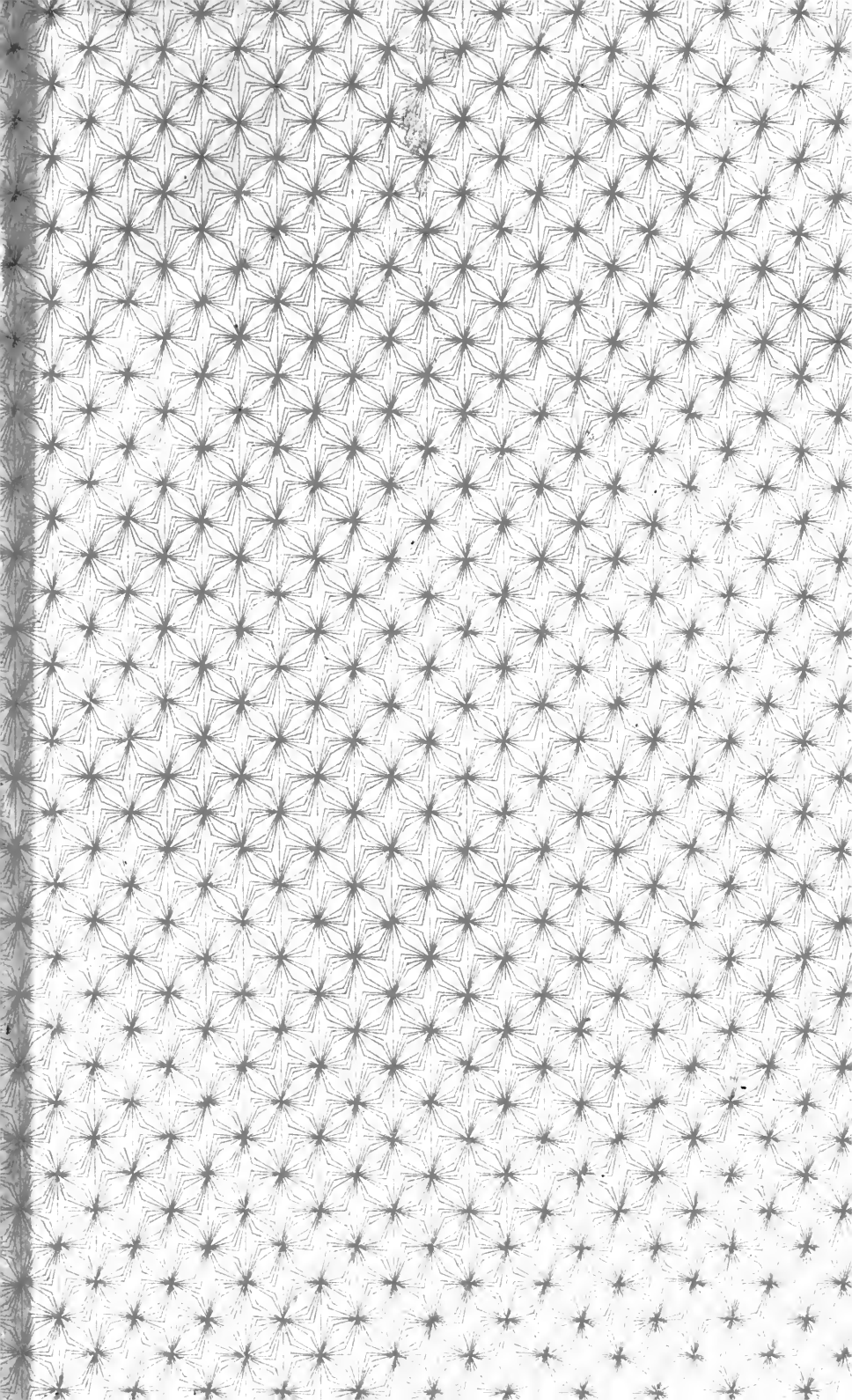












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